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Volume 71, Issue 31 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, January 29, 2026

Otsego to host Anne Frank exhibit starting Feb. 2

Students listen to a presenter who is providing information about items at the Anne Frank traveling exhibit. The exhibit will be in Otsego for a month, with the opening scheduled for Feb. 2. (Photo provided)

Otsego will host *Anne Frank: A History for Today*, a traveling, museum-quality exhibit that presents the history of the Holocaust through the life and perspective of Anne Frank and her family.

The 32-panel exhibit opens Feb. 2 and will be on display throughout the month. Traveling from the Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina, the exhibit pairs photographs of the Frank family with historical images to explore Anne's story and the lasting lessons of resilience and humanity connected to it.

A defining feature of the exhibit is its student-led approach.

Twenty Otsego middle and high school students are participating in a two-day training program to serve as tour guides, helping classmates and visitors engage with the material. Each tour will be unique, as students are encouraged to reflect on their own personal takeaways from the exhibit.

"The power of this program is that students take ownership of the history and Anne Frank's story as guides, then talk to their peers about it while they give tours of the exhibit," said Corey Harbaugh, curriculum and instruction specialist with the Anne Frank Center. "And when students talk to one another about this history, it resonates."

The exhibit arrived in late January for setup and training, with classroom tours beginning during the first week of February. All students in grades 6 through 12 will have the opportunity to visit the exhibit.

"What I am most excited about is that our students will learn about the Holocaust not through trauma or death, but through a young person's perspective—Anne Frank, her voice and her humanity," said Otsego middle school English Language Arts teacher Ashley Leneway.

"Anne was only 13 years old when she and her family went into hiding, and her diary is filled with life, humor, wisdom, fear and hope. That level of humanity brings history to life in a way facts alone never could."

Leneway added that placing students in the role of guides allows them to move beyond passive learning.

"When students are trained and trusted to serve in this capacity, we are leaning into our young people as capable, thoughtful leaders," she said. "Rather than simply consuming history, they carry it forward."

Otsego High School English Language Arts and Holocaust teacher Lori Laughlin said the exhibit offers students a meaningful real-world learning experience.

"As a Holocaust educator, I love to give my students as many real-world experiences as possible," Laughlin said. "Since I can't take them to see Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam, this is the next best thing. I'm very excited to have them all be a part of this wonderful opportunity."

The exhibit will also be paired with classroom viewings of *The Ice Cream Man*, a short film shortlisted for Best Live Action Short Film at the 2025 Academy Awards.

The film tells the true story of Ernst Cahn, whose courage and selflessness defied the Nazis during World War II.

Otsego will host a community night open to families and the public, offering guided tours of the exhibit and screenings of *The Ice Cream Man*. Harbaugh will host the evening and lead discussions and a question-and-answer session, with the film shown multiple times throughout the evening.

Having the exhibit hosted by Otsego Public Schools is part of a broader effort to provide students across Allegan County with access to this educational experience.

Through a partnership between the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency, the Anne Frank Center, and support from the Allegan County Community Foundation, the exhibit will spend three years in Allegan County.

Each AAESA district will host the exhibit for one month, with the countywide initiative beginning in Allegan in December.

The Allegan County Community Foundation will also host a screening of *The Ice Cream Man* on March 5, 2026, at The Griswold in Allegan. The event will include remarks from the film's writer, director and producer, Robert Moniot, who will share insights into the film's creation and historical significance.

Winter weather leads to weeklong school closures in Otsego, Plainwell

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Snow days are often the stuff of student (and some teacher) daydreams—a hopeful glance out the window, a phone refresh before sunrise, and the quiet thrill of seeing school canceled.

Last week, those hopes became reality in a big way, as winter weather delivered something rarely seen: an entire unplanned week away from the classroom.

For students, it was the kind of stretch that typically exists only in wishful thinking. For school leaders, however, it meant navigating a complex series of decisions centered on one core question: Is it safe to have school today?

For Otsego and Plainwell students alike, the answer was the same day after day. Heavy snowfall early in the week, followed by dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills near minus 25 degrees, forced both local districts to keep buildings closed for the remainder of the week.

While the experience was shared, the totals looked slightly different. Plainwell Community Schools had already been scheduled off Monday, Jan. 19, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, meaning the district used four weather-related closure days.

Otsego Public Schools, which did not have a scheduled day off that Monday, ended up closing all five days due to weather.

At Plainwell Community Schools, Superintendent Matthew Montange said the primary factor in closing school is whether it's safe for students and staff to be on the roads.

"Safe driving conditions are always the first thing we look at," Montange said. "That's often based on the timing of the weather, how much snow or ice we have at 4 a.m., and how much is predicted throughout the day."

Snowfall amounts alone don't tell the full story. Montange said the district also considers whether plow trucks can keep up with conditions—something that proved especially difficult last week.

"If plow trucks are out and snow is predicted to stop, then we have a better chance of having school," he said. "This week, plow trucks could not keep up with the snow, especially on side and back roads."

Timing is also critical. Montange said decisions typically must be made by 5:30 a.m. at the latest, as buses are already running and meals are being prepared in school kitchens shortly after.

Input from the county road commission, district operations and transportation directors, and neighboring superintendents all factor into the decision-making process. Still, Montange said he also views the situation through a personal lens.

"I try to determine if I would want my own kids driving on the roads in those conditions," he said.

Extreme cold brings another set of considerations—and in some ways makes the decision clearer.

"Extreme cold is actually an easier call to make," Montange said. "If temperatures are nearing minus 20 or colder, we will call school. We don't want students walking or waiting for buses in those temperatures."

Cold temperatures also impact school infrastructure and emergency response.

"Our snow melt systems don't work well in those conditions," Montange said. "And it creates very unsafe conditions if a student or staff member were to get stuck on the side of the road."

While students may welcome consecutive snow days, Montange said managing multiple closures in a row can be challenging from a leadership standpoint.

"This is very difficult at times," he said. "When it's a close call, balancing student learning, family schedules and staff considerations can be tough, but most of the time we err on the side of caution and safety."

From a calendar perspective, Michigan allows districts six emergency closure days per year without requiring them to be made up. Districts may request waivers for up to three additional days, with further waivers possible in extreme circumstances.

"Any days beyond nine that don't meet waiver requirements would need to be made up at the end of the school year," Montange said.

So far this winter, Plainwell has used five emergency days and would request additional waivers if necessary.

For Otsego and Plainwell students, last week may be remembered as a rare stretch when winter delivered more than just snow — it delivered time.

For administrators, it was a reminder that behind every snow day announcement is a careful balance of logistics, safety and responsibility, made long before the first tracks appear in freshly fallen snow.

City of Otsego advises residents not to run water for freeze concerns

Officials from the City of Otsego say they are not advising residents not to run their water at this time in response to cold weather and freezing concerns related to the city's water system.

According to the City, staff have been closely monitoring frost depth in the ground throughout the winter. Despite the recent cold temperatures, officials say there is currently no indication that City water mains are at risk of freezing, and residents do not need to run water as a preventative measure.

City officials noted they have received an increase in calls from residents asking about water credits related to running water. However, the City emphasized that water credits are only issued when freezing issues are directly related to City-owned water mains or when residents have been specifically advised by the City to run water.

Residents who have experienced internal plumbing freezes in the past—such as discolored water or a loss of water pressure—may run a small, pencil-thin stream of water only if an internal freezing issue occurs. In those cases, the responsibility for internal plumbing issues remains with the property owner.

The City said it will continue to monitor frost conditions and will notify residents if circumstances change. Any updates will be shared through the City's website and Facebook page.

Residents with questions are encouraged to contact City Hall at 692-3391.

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Wishbone Pet Rescue: Keeping Allegan County pets in loving homes

by Art Nicholas

Wishbone Pet Rescue works with one clear mission: to provide comprehensive animal welfare services to eliminate unnecessary euthanasia and ensure pets can remain in and find loving forever homes in Allegan County.

The organization partners with the Allegan County Shelter. Wishbone operates out of Douglas and is where their cat adoption and thrift store are located. in Douglas, which houses up to 50 cats transferred from the county shelter. In 2025 alone, Wishbone partnered with the Allegan County Animal Shelter facilitated 274 dog adoptions and 157 cat adoptions, reuniting 191 lost animals with their owners.

But adoption is only part of the story. Wishbone focuses heavily on prevention — helping families keep their pets rather than surrender them.

"Our goal is to try to be able to help people keep their animals in their homes instead of surrendering or just letting them go," said April Peters, Executive Director at Wishbone.

To achieve this, Wishbone operates a pet food pantry that distributed 75,613 pounds of food to families in 2025 — more than double the 35,000 pounds provided in 2024. The organization also runs spay and neuter services, completing 1,420 procedures last year through partnerships like the Bissell Fix the Future program, which operates twice monthly.

When families struggle financially, Wishbone steps in with a spay and neuter program for low-income families and resources like food and blankets. During the adoption process, if applicants' current pets aren't up to date on vaccinations or aren't spayed or neutered, Wishbone doesn't automatically reject them.

"That doesn't mean they can't adopt," Peters explained. "We just make sure they get that done. We do a lot of education and try to help them get their pets where they need to be so they can adopt."

For shelter animals requiring medical care, Wishbone helps cover the costs. Currently, this medical program serves only shelter pets, but Peters has ambitious plans for 2026.

Looking Ahead: A Medical Fund for the Community

"I would love to start a medical program for the public," Peters said. "Right now, our medical fund is for shelter pets only. I think if we were able to start a medical fund for the public, that will help families even more to keep their pets in their homes."

Veterinary emergencies can cost thousands of dollars, forcing families to make impossible choices. A public medical fund would provide another lifeline for pet owners facing financial crisis.

Growing these programs requires resources — and volunteers.

Beyond Dog Walking: Hidden Volunteer Opportunities

While Wishbone welcomes dog walkers and cat caretakers, Peters emphasizes that the organization's greatest needs lie elsewhere.

"Behind the scenes, we need volunteers like grant writers and social media support," Peters said. "Our board is 100 percent volunteers. We can utilize almost every skill."

Experience isn't required. "I'm not a grant writer, but I learned how to do it," Peters explained. "You don't even need experience — we can teach you. It's literally just pulling information from either myself or one of our head volunteers."

For students, social media management offers an ideal resume-building opportunity. Wishbone also operates a store that is 100 percent volunteer-run, with all proceeds supporting the rescue. Transportation volunteers drive animals to spay and neuter events using a donated van — no personal vehicle required.

The most critical need? Weekday availability.

"One of our biggest problems right now is we need more volunteers during the week, during the day," Peters said. "That's hard because most people have jobs, but we especially need help with the dogs."

Even limited mobility doesn't prevent someone from helping. Volunteers can simply sit with cats or provide companionship to animals waiting for homes.

Addressing Misconceptions

Peters wants the community to understand two key points about Wishbone and the shelter.

First, euthanasia doesn't disqualify an organization from being no-kill. "Just because an animal is euthanized doesn't mean a shelter is not a no-kill facility," she explained. "Sometimes animals need to be medically euthanized. Sometimes it's court ordered. If you have a dog suffering from cancer, we're not going to let them suffer."

Second, when the shelter cannot accept an animal, it's due to capacity and legal requirements, not lack of compassion.

"Sometimes I have to stay off Facebook because people say we don't care," Peters said. "That's not true at all. If anybody has ever spent a minute in the shelter, emotions are so high. Everyone is devastated when a tough decision has to be made. I think we care more than most, honestly."

When capacity prevents intake, Wishbone and the shelter collaborate to help families through other means, providing food, supplies, and support to prevent surrender.

Community in Action

Last spring, a dog named Roman sparked an investigation that uncovered 15 dogs living in one home. Wishbone's public plea for help demonstrated the community's commitment.

"I could not believe the overwhelming response," Peters recalled. "We needed dog crates, we needed volunteers. All 15 dogs got adopted out."

In another case, Wishbone helped rescue 20 cats from a condemned home and successfully found adoptive families for all of them.

These successes depend on community support. Wishbone partners with Greater Good to obtain food, paying only freight costs, but also relies on individual donors who send supplies through Amazon and Chewy or contribute funds during emergencies.

Get Involved

Wishbone's annual fundraising event — their largest of the year — takes place May 30. The organization is also partnering with Douglas and Saugatuck elementary and middle schools on an art program where students will create artwork featuring shelter animals, with an art show scheduled for May 7.

Whether you can write grants, manage social media, stock shelves, transport animals, or spend weekday mornings providing companionship to dogs and cats, Wishbone needs you.

"We can utilize almost every skill," Peters said. "There's just so many moving parts."

For more information about volunteering or Wishbone's programs, contact the organization directly. Every contribution — time, skills, or donations — helps keep Allegan County pets in loving homes.

Wishbone Pet Rescue
(269) 455-5247 https://www.wishbonepetrescue.org/ 165 Blue Star Highway, Douglas, Michigan, 49406

City Council moves forward with bonds and financing 2026 events

By Gari Voss

Though City Manager Joel Dye referred to the meeting's agenda as "light", there were a couple of standouts. First, the bids were opened for the Downtown Allegan Project and Grand Street. Both came in under the anticipated costs. The second was a careful examination of the revenue and expenditures for the City of Allegan special events which did not come in under costs.

ORDINANCES and SCHEDULING

Ordinance 534 to amend Chapter 11, Article III of the City of Allegan Code of Ordinances, titled "Escrow Account Proceeds from Fire Insurance Payments", to align procedures with the Fire Insurance Withholding Program was reviewed and a Public Hearing set for Monday, February 9, 2026, during the regular Council meeting.

Accepting Ordinance 534 would amend Chapter 11, Article III of the City of Allegan Code of Ordinances. The intent is to align the ordinance with state law to avoid any inconsistencies or potential conflicts. The current ordinance contains procedures and timelines that differ from the Michigan Fire Insurance Withholding Program, thus creating ambiguities in administration and enforcement. The recommended wording would replace the existing ordinance, provide clarity, and reference state law.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Slade introduced himself as a candidate for the 57th district court judge seat that is currently being held by Judge Joseph S. Skocelas. Slade's background is as a state police sergeant who became a lawyer. He feels that this brings a unique blend as a law enforcement officer and lawyer who believes in utilizing specialty courts whenever possible for rehabilitation, but if there are repeated failures then become firm to protect citizens.

REPORTS

Allegan County Fair. The council approved the various requests from the Allegan County Fair for the 2026 calendar year that includes the September 14, 2026, Allegan County Fair Parade with the theme of Blue Jeans and County Fair Dreams; the 6 Concerts held May-September 2026 including a variance of the noise ordinance; and additional signage around town to direct people to the fairgrounds. In addition, June 10th – 14th will be the Family RV Rally with the host units arriving on June 4th.

Allegan Emergency Services. The Emergency Services Committee sent their Q4 2025 Operations Summary Report and 2025 Annual Report. The overall chart indicated that the Priority 1,2,3 requests for all Life EMS areas numbered 2,304 with 899 being from the City of Allegan. Priority 1,2,3 transports for all EMS totaled 1,568 with 600 being from the City of Allegan. Priority 1,2,3 treatment on the scene with no transport totaled 414 with 172 being Allegan residents. There were 95 cancelled calls after dispatch with 32 from Allegan residents.

The City of Allegan contracts for EMS services at a rate of about $40,000 a year. The Allegan Area includes the City of Allegan, Allegan Township, Valley Township, Cheshire Township and Trowbridge Township. Council members requested that City Manager Joel Dye ask John Pinkster, director of south operations, to come in to answer questions regarding the report.

REPORTS

Downtown Development Authority (DDA). During their January 2026 meeting, the DDA members reviewed the projected FY27 budget along with the events planned for 2026. The calendar was approved. Parker Johnson also shared the draft of the Downtown Allegan Master Plan. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation 2026 Match on Main program will open on March 1, 2026, and this information will be shared with area businesses. Business owners requested that additional parking signs be erected that specify temporary vs long-term parking areas to facilitate snow plowing, customers, and deliveries.

Positively Allegan			Jan. 2025 Cash Balance	$19,013.71
Event	Actual Revenue	Actual Expenses	Net	Balance
Bridgefest	$7,616	$21,644	($14,028)	$4,986
Rollin' on the River	$17,500	$17,082	$418	$5,403
July 3 Jubilee	$12,139	$16,417	($4,278)	$1,126
Hoot-n-Howl	$1,000	$999	$1	$1,127
Festive Fridays	$12,652	$1,029	$4	$1,131
NYE!25 New Year's Eve	$7,079	$20,431	($7,779)	($6,648)
Griswold Concerts		$6,591	$487	($6,161)
Insurance		$15,072	($15,072)	($21,233)
Public Music Licenses		$1,056	($1,056)	($22,289)
Misc.		$750	($750)	($23,039)

Starting cash balance $19,013.71

Q4 Cash Injection $15,000 general fund

2025 Revenue $59,018.35

2025 Expenses $101,071.19

Operation Deficit ($8,039.13)

Public Spaces Commission. Johnson reminded that Council that Charles Clark II would be replacing Carl Canales on the Public Spaces Commission. It was important to note that the scenic overlook on the Water Street Boardwalk would be removed because it has fallen into disrepair, and a walker had tripped over the boards. The landscaping boulders donated by Tessa Thomas to protect pedestrians on Trowbridge Plaza had been installed by Scotts Landscaping. Johnson shared a proposal to encourage community members to sponsor downtown trees and businesses to sponsor raised landscaping beds. Also discussed were the holiday decorations of which he has received feedback, the Griswold Auditorium improvements, and Phase II of the Downtown Allegan Improvement Project and the Rossman Neighborhood Improvement Project.

Administrative Services

Accounts Payable & Payroll. The request to approve accounts payable in the amount of $380,963.92 and payroll in the amount of $156,835.28 for a total disbursement of $537,799.20 passed.

Sanitary Sewer System Bonds. The request to adopt Resolution 26.02 to authorize issuance of 2026 Sanitary Sewer System First Lien Revenue Bonds was approved. In October, the council approved publishing intent for sanitary sewer system revenue bonds. The city can now request the issuance of those bonds not to exceed $10,040,000 at a rate of 7% with a 20-year repayment plan.

Water Supply System Bonds. The request to adopt Resolution 26.03 to authorize issuance of 2026 Water Supply System First Lien Revenue Bonds was approved. This follows the same process as the sanitary sewer system bonds. The bond amount will not exceed $7,270,000, at 7% and for 20 years.

Next steps for these bonds will be to get a credit rating for the City of Allegan. Then the city will enter into a bidding process similar to a construction project except by going out for bids from finance companies.

On the positive side, the city opened bids for the Downtown Project. The low bid was below the engineering estimate. The Grand Street project bid came in $75,000 below the engineering estimate which is good for the city. This is helpful since the bonds going out have a not to exceed amount. Bonds can be refinanced if the interest rate drops to a rate that will save money.

In regard to the Water Supply System bonds, Dye reminded the Council that the city had received a $2.5 million grant from Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for water improvements. That reduced the dire financial picture that Dye had previously described for the city and any future improvement plans.

To answer public questions regarding how the city can afford these improvements, Dye stressed that the city scaled back the original plans and is only replacing the existing water and sewer lines that are old, broken and must be replaced. When replacing the road, there are no improvements related to sidewalks, curbs, or other new amenities. All the residents will get are new sewer and water mains, and new roads.

Positively Allegan Licenses. The request to adopt Resolution 26.04 approving a **Charitable Gaming License** for Positively Allegan was approved. March 14, 2026, the Art of Allegan event that is being organized by community area members who love the Griswold will be held. The theme is *Allegan Starry Night*. Original artwork by Paulette Carr, of Brave Art Studios and 500 prints of artwork donated by Smurfit Westrock will be on sale with proceeds funding the Griswold improvements. This is a day-long fundraising event. There will be art classes, a silent auction of art pieces, and some downtown businesses are hosting DYI activities. A screening of the movie *Vincent* about the artist of Starry Night will be held. Carr's art piece of Allegan's Starry Night will be available for purchase, plus a 50/50 raffle. For the raffle, Positively Allegan needs a gaming license plus liquor licenses must be pulled in order to serve adult beverages. $2700 has been raised thus far thanks to sponsorship commitments from A-Tech Computers, the Allegan County Community Foundation, Brave Art Studio, Country House Furniture, Tantrick Brewing & Stillhouse, and Tibbitts Financial Consulting.

Allegan Events End of Year Fiscal Report. Parker Johnson reviewed the end-of-year 2025 Downtown Allegan event budgets. Dye reminded the council of the costs of these events to the city and the benefits to the community. Event planning follows a calendar year rather than a fiscal year.

Dye reminded council of the costs for these events. The chart demonstrated what the city event costs typically run higher than the revenue received. The revenue is largely sponsorship and 10% from the food trucks and vendors. The extra activities offered during the events can be very expensive. Johnson gave an example of the costs associated with the rides. It isn't just the rides but the costs in setting up and taking down then there are the bands, the extra reserve officers and firefighters, along with DPW staff who are not factored into actual expenses. For NYE, the attractions of the ice skating and silent disco and the band plus fireworks all add up.

Johnson reiterated that they were looking to trim down the extras while keeping the excitement of the event. What saved the Hoot and Howl was a donation of $1000 that went to the giant inflatable pumpkin rather than a band and entertainment package. The businesses offered the activities during Hoot and Howl, and Johnson's goal is to do the same thing for Bridgefest. The rides can be cut while maintaining fun, interactive activities. Therefore, the goal is to cut costs and work more with business and community partners.

By examining the end-of-year chart, Johnson could easily demonstrate how the beginning balance of $19,013.71 dwindled down to the negative. The Council did give Positively Allegan a cash injection of $15,000 in October. The 2025 total revenue was $59,018.35 with total expenses of $101,071.19 left the operation deficit at a negative $8,039.13.

This is better than several years ago when the DDA supported the events. Johnson demonstrated the importance of sponsorships by listing events and sponsors. Rollin' on the River held its own with the sponsorships of Allegan Credit Union, Allegan True Value, Gordon Funeral Residence, Tibbits Financial Consulting and Weichert Realtors – Platinum Group. Festive Fridays and Hoot-n-Howl expenses were covered by Milbocker & Sons while the Griswold Concerts had gate receipts.

The chart demonstrated the need to either trim expenses or find more sponsors. Johnson and Dye were extremely thankful to Allegan Towhsnip, Cunningham Dalman, Honor Credit Union, Abonmarche, Allegan Event, Michigan Gas Utilities, Tantrick Brewing & Stillhouse, Taylor Lake – Modern Woodman, RCI Adventure Products, and Bartz-Rumery Agency, Inc. Without their generosity, the 2025 City of Allegan events would not have offered the special activities.

Johnson and the Positively Allegan team will be brainstorming how to find more partners while determining how to trim the expenses of city events.

Board Vacancies

The Airport Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals have single vacancies. City Manager Dye reminded all that they just need to reach out to City Hall, and a board application will be sent.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

February 16, 2026, Presidents' Day, City Hall will be closed, but Mayor Perrigo has called a special Council meeting at 5pm to review information concerning the potential apartment project on Lowe Street Project and on concerning the bonding.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Melonie Hooker thanked Parker for all the events that are well received. Not many people have come to chat with council members so Hooker and Walker have designed a schedule and flier. The next meeting will be on Feb. 20th from 4-6pm at the Community Action building where the Warming Station will be located.

Charles Clark II expressed the hope that if anyone has complaints, they email the complaints directly to the council or if they want to make a change, step forward and get on one of the city board positions or come to a meeting and present their thoughts.

Will Walker expressed that it was great to see all of the events downtown. Maybe not a total financial success but a lot of great sponsors. The Warming Center is moving on Sunday, Feb. 1st to the Community Action building, and they are always looking for volunteers. The Center is making a difference with a full meal, movies and sharing resources for counselling. After working with the Gun Lake Tribe, they did research on the land where Allegan sits and the history of the land. It would be great to possibly have a plaque acknowledging that history to raise awareness in city of Allegan.

Traci Perrigo mentioned that local printer Smurfit Westrock has donated the printing to Starry Nights, the Allegan Arts event. The Volunteer Button on the City website is easier to locate and is accessible in three places.

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Community Events

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Sun. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station when temp below 32 degrees - First Presbyterian Church, 200 Cutler St. Allegan. Come for a warm spot and a simple meal.

Wed., Jan 28, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café. 1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 5:30pm: Puzzle Race. Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan. Jan. 29th is National Puzzle Day.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 6-7pm: Owl Prowl. New Richmond Park 3160 Old Allegan Dam Rd. Fennville

Sat., Jan 31, 2026, 1pm: Create a Pet Face Shirt. Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026, 7pm: Karaoke Night w/DJ Keil. Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan

Now – Feb. 28, 2026: Peanut Butter Drive. Donate jars of peanut butter or make monetary donations toward a bulk purchase peanut butter for the Allegan Co. Food Pantry Collaborative. Contact Hungry for Christ 269-264-1307 or Allegan County Community Foundation 269-673-8344.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Jan 28, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café. Caregivers can enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation while the young ones play.
6pm: Always Forward: Local Author Talk. Join Cecilia (Adele) Garcia, Allegan author and combat veteran, as she shares her journey from Army service and receiving a Purple Heart, to becoming a mental health advocate.

Wed., Jan 28, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Come during lunch and listen to great music, have lunch, bring your knitting or a guitar and join the open jam session. Music calms the soul.

Wed., Jan. 28, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Down Under Dart League
Tantrick Down Under, 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and join the league or just watch and learn.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Fun for 3-5 year olds.
5:30pm: Puzzle Race. Jan. 29th is National Puzzle Day. Sign up a team and complete the puzzle first. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 6-7pm: Owl Prowl
New Richmond Park 3160 Old Allegan Dam Rd. Fennville
Spend time with ODC exploring owls along the trails. Register at the the ODC website: https://outdoordiscovery.org/programs/#calendar.

Thurs., Jan. 29, 2026, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come for a night of fun playing a twist round of traditional Bingo.

Thurs., Jan 29, 2026, 6-8pm: Euchre Night
Lynz Golf Course 500 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Nightly buy in, includes season ending tournament pot if meeting minimum participation. Individual players wanted. Blind draw for partners

Fri., Jan 30, 2026, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Enjoy fried pollack (all you can eat) – served with fries, coleslaw & bread.

Sat., Jan 31, 2026, 1pm: Create a Pet Face Shirt
Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026, 6-8pm: Wine & Canvas
Lynx Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Join a professional, friendly local artist for step-by-step instructions on how to recreate a beautiful painting, in a relaxed and fun, artsy environment.

Sat., Jan. 31, 2026, 7pm: Karaoke Night w/DJ Keil
Tantrick Brewing Co, 243 Hubbard St., Allegan
Come and try your luck at the mic!

Wed., Feb. 4, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Wed., Feb. 4, 2026, 5:30-9pm: Down Under Dart League
Tantrick Down Under, 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and join the league or just watch and learn.

Thurs., Feb. 5, 2026, 11:30am-1pm: Multi-Chamber Women's Event
Venue Bella Giornata 1835 84th St. SW Byron Center
Connect with other Chamber women for an event with Grace Gavin of Know Honesty. For information, contact Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce, 269 673-2479

Fri., Feb. 6, 2026, 9am-3pm: Diaper Bank
Allegan Community Action 323 Water St. Allegan
Call 269-673-5472 ext. 258, or email diaperbank@communityactionallegan.org.

Sat., Feb. 7, 2026, 10am start: Downtown Plainwell Chocolate Stroll
Stroll through downtown while enjoying chocolatey treats, sipping specialty drinks in the social district, and discovering exciting restaurant specials along the way. Shop local, taste something sweet, and soak in the lively atmosphere. The event takes place during participating store hours, so come early and make a day of it!

Sat., Feb. 7, 2026, 12pm: Modales Sweetheart Artisan Market
Modales Wines 2128 62nd St. Fennville

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026, NOON: Leader Lunch & Learn
Allegan County Community Foundation invites all nonprofit leaders for learning and personal growth.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Addiction Support Group, Thursdays 7-8pm
1900 Lincoln Road, Allegan
Come as you are.

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityaction-allegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Thursdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/ valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
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Safe Routes to School moves forward in Pullman

By Gari Voss

It has been a long row to hoe, but the process in obtaining a sizeable grant to construct sidewalks and safe routes to Pullman Elementary School and other locations is moving into its next phase.

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This was made possible when the Lee Township Board passed a resolution during their January 14, 2026, meeting to accept ownership and long-term maintenance of the sidewalks and trails constructed under the Safe Routes to School project with a vote of 3 to 2. Voting in favor of the project were Ben Lewis, Ann Hatfield and Kathy Blackburn, and those voting against were Rich Rawson and Joe Godlew.

The Beautify Pullman Board of Directors then returned to the Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) board on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Once Lee Township accepted responsibility for ownership and maintenance, the ACRC board unanimously agreed to be the Act 51 fiscal agency to support the project.

"The ACRC resolution to be the Act 51 Agency is a required document to be included in the grant application," explained Beautify Pullman treasurer Patty Conway.

Beautify Pullman President Debbie Laraway exclaimed, "We're excited to bring this approximately $850,000.00 project which will provide, at no cost to the taxpayers of Lee Township, not only Safe Routes to School for our school kids but also a much safer walking environment for the 22% of adults who have no access to vehicles!"

"The next step is to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for a Safe Routes to School Grant," shared Conway, "Pullman Elementary School will be the applicant with Beautify Pullman the partner on the application."

The grant will be to construct sidewalks and multi-use paths between Pullman Elementary School and the Mystic View apartments at Thomas Street just north of the major crossroads.

"We have had very positive interactions with the Bloomingdale School District throughout this project," stated Conway. "Most of their involvement in the planning was done by Superintendent Rick Reo's predecessor Diana Dobbins. She actively participated in the planning process with us [Beautify Pullman], Michigan Fitness, and Abonmarche, including personally participating in the walking audit of Pullman which determined which route to school would be best served by the SRTS grant."

Since becoming superintendent of Bloomingdale Public Schools, Reo has met with Conway and Laraway to review the project, and he has given them his full support. In addition, Pullman Elementary Principal Amber Mortensen has been actively involved in the planning process throughout.

Thanks to previous grants and the efforts of Beautify Pullman, much of the engineering and design have been accomplished with the assistance of Abonmarche Consultants. SRTS is just one significant step in bringing to fruition the Pullman Non-Motorized Transportation Connection Plan designed in 2024. The plan can be accessed at https://www.beautifypullman.org/. Thus, the major pieces are ready for moving into completing the grant application.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international movement that has become a federal program. The goal has been to make travel safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. SRTS initiatives also help ease traffic jams, unite neighborhoods, and contribute to students' readiness to learn in school.

Over the years, the program has taken on a variety of support. In August 2005, the federal SRTS program was created under Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which was signed into law (P.L. 109-59). In 2012, Congress passed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The new transportation bill combined SRTS with the Transportation Enhancements and Recreational Trails programs to form a new program called Transportation Alternatives. Thus, moving funding for SRTS activities under Transportation Alternatives.

In December 2015, a five-year transportation bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or FAST ACT was signed by Congress. SRTS remained with Transportation Enhancements and Recreational Trails programs. SRTS activities were now eligible for funding under Transportation Alternatives. More recently, Congress passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (IIJA) or the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. SRTS remained under the Department of Transportation Alternatives Program and was upgraded from K-8 eligibility to K-12.

Funding comes from MDOT with Michigan Fitness administering the SRTS program. The SRTS team has worked hand-in-hand guiding Beautify Program through the application process.

Beautify Pullman had a vision that people who did not have motorized vehicles could safely travel to school, stores and offices around the Pullman community. Once the Pullman Non-Motorized Transportation Connection Plan was designed in 2024, Beautify Pullman worked with community members and began breaking the total plan into obtainable pieces. Thus, the leadership continues working with the Michigan Fitness Foundation to complete a Safe Routes to School grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation to create sidewalks and a safe passage from Mystic View Apartments to Pullman Elementary School.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Tips for Enjoying Winter

Winter often brings shorter days and colder temperatures, but it also offers unique opportunities for enjoyment, connection, and seasonal tradition. With the right mindset and preparation, the colder months can become a time of activity and discovery rather than something to simply endure.

Spending time outdoors remains one of the best ways to embrace winter. Activities such as sledding, ice skating, snowshoeing, and winter hiking allow people to stay active while appreciating the season's natural beauty. Dressing in warm layers and investing in proper footwear can make outdoor time more comfortable and enjoyable, even on colder days.

Indoor activities provide equally rewarding ways to have fun when temperatures drop. Board games, puzzles, cooking projects, and movie nights create opportunities for family bonding and relaxation. Winter is also a popular time to try new hobbies such as baking, crafting, or learning a musical instrument. These activities help fill long evenings and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Seasonal events add excitement and structure to the winter months. Holiday festivals, light displays, community concerts, and winter markets give residents reasons to gather and celebrate. Many towns also host ice fishing tournaments, winter sports leagues, or outdoor firepit events that bring people together despite the cold.

Staying socially connected is especially important during winter. Planning regular get-togethers, even simple coffee visits or shared meals, helps maintain relationships and prevents isolation. Volunteering during the winter season can also be fulfilling, offering opportunities to support neighbors and community organizations when help is most needed.

Self-care plays a role in enjoying winter as well. Maintaining routines, getting adequate sleep, and finding time to relax can improve both physical and mental wellbeing. Taking advantage of natural light during the day and staying active can help combat seasonal fatigue.

Winter offers its own rhythm and rewards. By balancing outdoor adventure, indoor comfort, social connection, and personal interests, the season can become a time of enjoyment and renewal rather than limitation.

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Letts sentenced to 10 to 20 years for CSC crimes

A Hamilton man will spend at least 10 years in prison for charges related to sexual abuse and the distribution of child pornography.

Casey Letts, 34, was sentenced Friday to 10 to 20 years in prison. He pleaded no contest to five felony counts, including second-degree criminal sexual conduct, child sexually abusive activity, capturing/distributing image of an unclothed person and two counts of using computers to commit a crime, court records show

Letts was arrested in September 2024, months after Michigan State Police received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children about a person who was uploading and receiving child sexually abusive material, the Allegan County Sheriff's Office announced at the time.

He originally faced up to 37 felony charges.

Free heart health workshop at library

The Fennville District Library will host Jocelyn Leonard and Ryan Klingler, members of the Wes Leonard Heart Team, 6:30 pm -8:00 pm, Thursday, February 5 for a free heart health workshop. The Fennville Women's Club and Fennville Friends of the Library are offering this event as a special Valentine's Day gift to the community. The library is located at 400 W Main Street.

The Wes Leonard Heart Team, created in memory of Wes Leonard, is committed to heart health education, training communities about CPR and AED usage and helping to have AEDs placed in schools and youth athletic facilities.

The Fennville Women's Club is an active social organization which supports girls and women and raises funds to underwrite programs and projects that enhance the quality of life in Fennville. For further information, contact Dawn Soltysiak at fernwood1891@gmail.com.

Friends of the Fennville Library are community volunteers that support the ongoing mission of the library. For further information, contact fennvillefriends@gmail.com.

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Opinion: Greenland Matters to U.S. Security — But Its People Should Choose Its Future

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

My son and I have always toyed with the idea of living in Greenland. I being drawn to the heat, couldn't survive 50 degrees below zero. My son on the other hand is drawn towards the cold and has fancied a long stay in Nuuk, Greenland's capital.

So it is with keen interest that a major topic of conversation at the world level is Trump's play to annex Greenland.

In the 21st-century great-power competition, few pieces of real estate attract as much geopolitical interest as Greenland — and for good reason. Perched in the High North between North America and Europe, the island commands the gateway to the Arctic and plays a crucial role in monitoring the strategic approaches from Russia and, increasingly, China. U.S. defense planners understand this better than most: Greenland's location has been integral to North American defense since World War II, and the U.S. military presence there continues to underpin early-warning, missile defence, and space-surveillance operations critical to NATO and U.S. strategic interests.

The island's geography also anchors the GIUK Gap — a naval choke point defined by Greenland, Iceland and the United Kingdom that has been pivotal in tracking Russian naval movements since the Cold War. As the Arctic warms and competition over shipping lanes and resources intensifies, that strategic lens becomes ever sharper.

Yet this strategic calculus must never overshadow another fundamental truth: Greenland is not a pawn — it is home to about 56,000 people with their own history, culture and political aspirations. Greenland is a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark; its people have the legal right to choose their own future, including eventual independence or new partnerships. The Greenlandic government has repeatedly asserted that no negotiations about territorial status or security agreements should proceed without them sitting at the table.

Indeed, when asked whether they want to become part of the United States, a striking 85 % of Greenlanders said no in a recent poll. Only about 6 % expressed support for U.S. annexation, and a clear majority voiced their preference to remain within the Danish realm or pursue their own sovereign path.

That reality should prompt serious reflection in Washington. A strong partnership with Greenland — one that respects its autonomy and aspirations — serves U.S. security far better than coercive or unilateral ambitions. The U.S. already enjoys robust access for military cooperation under existing defense agreements with Denmark; this suffices to maintain strategic capabilities without upending regional relationships or risking a diplomatic rupture with European allies.

The argument that Greenland should choose its alignment is not just a moral one — it is also strategic. Partnerships grounded in mutual consent are more resilient and effective. They build trust, encourage cooperation on shared challenges like Arctic environmental change and resource management, and avoid the backlash that comes with perceived imperialism. If Greenland chooses a closer security relationship with the United States — or even an eventual shift towards European frameworks — that decision would carry far more legitimacy and durability than one imposed by external pressure.

In short, Greenland's strategic importance to U.S. defense is undeniable. Its location, its role in missile warning systems, and its position in Arctic geopolitics make it a pillar of North American and NATO security. But strategic value does not confer ownership of people or place. A responsible U.S. foreign policy should champion Greenland's right to self-determination, foster equitable cooperation, and recognize that the strongest alliances are those freely chosen.

It seems President Trump has backed down from his Greenland position that makes the large island a territory of the United States, in favor of a large strategy that would include U.S. military defenses all over the Arctic region. He and the NATO Secretary General, Mark Ruud, seem to be working that out. I hope they succeed.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

It's been a quarter-century since the death knell sounded for those old chests of drawers in libraries.

Were you card-carrying member of the Olds era, you remember them. Three sections of cards, alphabetically organized according to author, subject, or title.

We started our search there and if we what we wanted, we wrote down the Dewey Decimal number and went on an expedition into the stacks. With luck the book would be there.

Were we desperate to tell the younger set about how good we had it then, we could tell them about how we wrote term papers.

Be sure to include the tale of the 3x5-inch cards on which we wrote what we now call a "byte' of information."

The next step came when you used your own brain's RAM (Random Access Memory) to arrange all the cards to write the outline. After the rough draft came the finished paper to turn in for a grade.

That all came to an end 25 years ago when a new way of seeking information slithered into our lives with the introduction of Wikipedia. Of course to use it you had to have a computer nd printer. They were a pain and the neck, or about two and a half feet down.

My friend Jesse had an early model. It was a Time-X that had to be rigged to a small television, a cassette tape recorder for storage, and a dot matrix printer.

I took one look at it, sniffed in derision and went back to a desktop manual Adler. It was faster, if only in the early years. I was sure nothing would replace "Addie."

Wikipedia changed everything. No more treks to and from a school or public library, a table full of books or periodicals.

Instead, in front of us were thousands of pages of articles on every imaginable subject.

It wasn't just the card catalogs that began disappearing. Printed encyclopedias, especially the World Books that were the pride of every middle-class home, were becoming a thing of the past.

No more earnest salesmen knocking on the front door to guilt-shame adults into buying a set so their children would excel in school, go to a prestigious college and get a white-collar job. No more instructions from The Olds, to "look it up in the encyclopedia; that's what we paid good money for, so use it and show a little appreciation."

Wikipedia introduced itself as an online encyclopedia, a free public service one-stop research center. It was also written, if only in theory in the beginning, by people who were knowledgeable in the subject, and anyone could give it a peer-review and make changes. That meant it was updated instantly, and some of the updates were edited and changed.

In the past, let's say Professor Twitwillow wanted to write a paper on the purple-crested hoopoe (a bird in Africa). He or she would prepare a paper, send it to an ornithology periodical, and in time it might or might not get into print.

With Wikipedia, Twitwillow Jr. would write the paper, upload it to the online encyclopedia, then it was fair game anyone to change, or for Twitwillow to delete the correct, edit and rewrite it.

It was the wild west of academia where anything goes. Egos sometimes got in the way of common sense, and instead of a showdown on main street, the combatants went at it online. The flame-wars made for tremendous fun.

Soon, new computer programs made it possible for students to copy word-for-word an article, or just paste into their paper and turn it in for a grade. For teachers that was akin to lighting a cherry bomb under their chair. It was terrifying time as they debated academic honesty.

About that time, when I was an adjunct professor at a nearby college, we were ordered to attend emergency top-secret meetings on the Wikipedia crisis. sSecurity guarded the door.

How could we stop students from using the system? Should we bring back loyalty oaths where they had to pledge they did not use it? But then, how would we know if they were telling the truth?

A dot-com company came up with a program that could scan a student paper and snitch on the cheaters. I caught a few.

The funniest came when I asked a fellow if he was cheating by using Wiki. He swore that he hadn't used it, but the evidence was there. Whole paragraphs had been lifted into his paper.

I pointed out the error of his ways and he didn't like it. Finally he shouted, "I tell you I didn't cheat. My sister did my homework for me and wrote the paper."

His answer sort of defeated the whole purpose of learning. I gave him a mulligan on it and said he had one chance to write the paper himself and without cheating. What happened after that? He followed me out to the car, campus security saw the fracas and the police came calling.

Over the past 25 years, Wikipedia has matured. It is still a nonprofit organization available to anyone. It still relies on volunteer contributors for most of the information it publishes.

Most importantly, they still rely on volunteer editors and fact checkers. Sometimes, it gets a bit vicious when egos get into a war of words. I see it as a different form of academic debate.

The middle weekend of January brings not only the Cubs Convention, but a Wikipedia editors conclave. Area editors are invited to get together to discuss their work and hear about new trends.

One of them will be given the accolade of the major contributor of the year, with a handful of runners up.

Wikipedia administrators are increasingly demanding citing one's sources. The result is it is more reliable than before. Plus, it continues to grow as contributors publish pieces on every possible obscure topic.

Let's say you are a fan of "Anne of Green Gables" and you know it is set near Cavendish on Prince Edward Island in Canada. With Wikipedia, you can read the history of the place, famous people who lived there and even get the map coordinates.

All of it is referenced and citations given in the end notes. All you have to do is memorize a bit of the information and you can amaze your fellow book club members. Or talk so much you can bore them into slumber land. Of course, they might nickname you a know-it-all or a little professor.

The temptation of wholesale copying and pasting remains, but schools now have more resources to catch anyone who cheats.

Today, the new internet source of information is AI, more specifically ChatGPT. Sign on with it, then ask it any question or give it any assignment you want.

In a few moments it will start spitting out information, and then like an old-fashioned reference librarian, ask if you need more or have specific questions.

What will be the next advance? Perhaps it will be computer chips wired into our brains. That way we can talk to ourselves, ask any question and hear us answer ourselves. That could be fun.

Or we could return to thinking for ourselves instead of having a computer trot out answers. That would be even more fun.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Response to the Death of Alex Pretti

Dear Editor:

I've been watching the heartbreaking news from Minneapolis with a heavy, broken heart. On January 24, 2026, 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Jeffrey Pretti — someone who cared for veterans and served his community — was shot and killed by a U.S. Border Patrol agent during a federal immigration enforcement operation.

At this early stage, there are conflicting accounts of what happened. Federal officials say Pretti approached agents with a handgun and resisted disarmament. Local leaders, video evidence, and family statements challenge that version, saying he was unarmed — holding a phone — and may have been trying to help others, not harm law enforcement.

This tragedy comes amid intense protests over immigration enforcement in Minneapolis — already inflamed by the earlier death of Renée Good — and it has sparked outrage, sorrow, and civil unrest in multiple cities

First and foremost, this is the death of a human being — a son, a caregiver, a colleague, a member of his community. His family has described him as a kindhearted person devoted to serving others.

Whether or not one agrees with immigration policy or enforcement tactics, no one should celebrate the loss of life or reduce another person to a stereotype. We must resist the impulse to weaponize tragedy in service of argument.

We should all want full transparency about what occurred: clear evidence, verified facts, and thorough investigation. When official statements and eyewitness accounts differ sharply, trust erodes — not just in institutions, but between neighbors, communities, and the very idea of shared truth.

Independent review and accountability are not partisan demands — they are necessary elements of justice. The honest pursuit of truth honors the dignity of the individual lost and the rights of the living.

For those who see federal enforcement as essential to national security, this moment is painful not because they deny law enforcement's challenges, but because any loss of life is a burden on the conscience of a society that values human dignity.

For those deeply concerned about civil liberties, immigration policy, and systemic disparities, this moment is a reminder of how fragile safety can feel and how quickly distrust can turn to despair.

Both reactions come from love — love for country, for community, for family — even as they pull in different directions.

A prayer for leadership has been caught in my throat in these days. In moments like this, when grief is acute and hearts are split, words often fail us. Yet I still pray — not for one side, but for all of us:

for justice that heals rather than divides,

for courage to confront hard truths,

for compassion that reaches across disagreement,

and for the peace that only deep understanding can bring.

The loss of Alex Pretti is a tragedy that cuts across political lines. It does not belong to one side or the other — it belongs to every community struggling to understand one another, to preserve life, and to seek peace within a deeply polarized nation. In honoring his memory, may we all recommit to respectful discourse, to compassionate listening, and to a shared pursuit of truth and healing.

Jay Kurtis Oetman

We can celebrate so many governmental successes

Dear Editor:

Just in time for the United States and World Christmas and Holiday Celebrations, Viewpoints articles generated excitements beyond expectations, Happy Times. The stewardship is stupendous, phenomenal; it's extraordinary; it's historical successes. Activities of legislation, mandates, … and policies highlight Michigan Democrats, now known as the Democratic Socialists, priorities. Coincidentally missing are the public and celebrated accomplishments; to acknowledge their continued successes, see the short summary list below:

It's the stupendous ideas of cultural transformation and activities for working people that count. Only yesterday Drag Queens were in children's kindergartens, biological males could and would become Pregnant, ... and all 300 claimed genders were welcome in the girls, ladies, or men's dressing rooms, bathrooms, … anyplace.

Having Government investigate personal phone conversations and interviewing Christian Pastors looking for Terrorists in their parishes/congregations was normal. Well, that's OK. Got to find and root out those Religious Terrorists.

Indifference toward degenerate pornographers and purveyors of child sex trafficking is unimportant.

Perhaps, persons who care about the Epstein files, Epstein the dead guy, are just disappointed they missed out. Everyone knows pornography and child sex trafficking is a big business, very profitable.

How about celebrating Senators Peters and Slotkin voting records. They ignore only half of Michiganders. The **D** next to their names tells the complete story of solidarity. Just yesterday, Senator Slotkin via a nationally broadcast video encouraged the United States Military to ignore the Government's chain of command. Senator Slotkin is just behaving like a Revolutionist intending to update/redo that nasty White-Supremacist U. S. Constitution. It's all advanced forms of Free Speech; say anything, it's Free; no accountability too. After all, got to keep the Transformation going.

No worries, those non-invited persons, illegals, living in Michigan are just on vacation, eating, drinking driving, … and living at your expense.

Michigan Democratic Socialists long for the **good old days** of only a few months ago; Happier Days.

Philip Zamlynski

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $70 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $70 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Letters to the editor

Reader admonishes ICE for killings

To the editor:

Let's take an eye test.

Picture this scene taken from a federal agent's phone camera: A woman is sitting in her car talking through the window to the agent. Her last words before turning the car away from the agent are: "I don't hate you dude…" and she begins to drive away. As recorded by the camera, the agent moves toward the front of the car but stays about 6 feet away while he draws his service weapon and fires a shot through the windshield, wounding the woman. As the car completes its turn and he comes along side the car, the agent fires two more rounds into the driver's window. The woman loses control of the vehicle and crashes into a parked car away from the scene. The agent's phone continues recording and the agent is heard to say a demeaning and dehumanizing expletive. This record from the agent's phone contradicts statements made by high government officials in the Trump administration who claimed this woman - now dead - was a domestic terrorist assaulting a law enforcement officer.

Here's the test: to you believe the propaganda generated by the Department of Homeland Security and broadcast through social media networks owned by billionaires like Elon Musk, Larry Ellison, and Rupert Murdoch? Or do you trust your own eyes?

Lets's take another test: A man is working to help keep people safe in a tense situation between protesters and federal agents. It turns out the man is carrying a concealed firearm. It is registered and he has a permit to carry. The man bends down to assist a woman who has been pushed to the ground. A federal agent approaches and pepper sprays both of them. Someone notices the holstered weapon and eight federal agents wrestle the man to the ground where they disarm him. After he is disarmed and an agent is seen walking away with the man's weapon, federal agents open fire into the pile of people subduing the man. The man dies from 10 gunshot wounds to his back. Several people use their cell phones to record this incident.

Here's the test: to you believe the propaganda generated by the Department of Homeland Security and broadcast through social media networks owned by billionaires like Elon Musk, Larry Ellison, and Rupert Murdoch? Or do you trust your own eyes?

We have serious concerns about a large, poorly trained, unaccountable paramilitary force - ICE - with a budget larger than the US Marine Corps. Do we really want our beautiful country to succumb to this violent minority? Think how many schools could be built and staffed with these funds.

Meanwhile, have you checked the cost of groceries?

William and Mary Jones

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Obituaries

Annie McIntyre Calkins

Annie McIntyre Calkins, 95, of Holland, Michigan passed away Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at Freedom Village. Born February 5, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan, she was the daughter of William and Annie (Ferguson) McIntyre and was the wife of the late Donald Albert Calkins. Mrs. Calkins worked as a secretary in the Detroit area for 40 years. She and Donald eventually retired in his hometown of Allegan, Michigan. Annie enjoyed singing in church choirs, dancing with her husband, and playing golf. Short in stature, but strong in spirit, Annie was proud of her Scottish heritage and was active in politics. Annie and Donald were dedicated pet parents to their

Annie McIntyre Calkins

dogs Gizmo, Tar, Rocky, Buddy, Shadow, Specs, and Rags, along with their cats, Sam and Sandy. Mr. and Mrs. Calkins played a special role in the lives of their extended family. The hosting of family gatherings at their homes in Detroit, Bradenton, Florida, and their cottage on Lake Michigan created cherished memories for their nieces, nephews, and families.

Mrs. Calkins is survived by several cousins, twelve nieces and nephews, a sister in-law, Gwendolyn Calkins, and special friends. Along with her parents and her husband, she is preceded in death by her husband's siblings and spouses: Harold Calkins (Ceil), Jean Moore (Robert), Jane Nahikian (William) and Tom Calkins as well as nephews Kim Moore and Michael Calkins.

The family will have a Celebration of Life at a later date followed by inurnment at Fort Custer alongside her beloved husband.

Beverly Claire Pike

Beverly Claire Pike, age 86, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2025, at Cortland Riverside Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Born on August 21, 1939, in Chicago, Illinois, Beverly was the youngest child of Arthur and Ethel (Olson) Bergman. She grew up alongside her two siblings, Ron and Barbara. In 1949, the family relocated to Monterey Center, Michigan, where Arthur operated the local general store. Beverly graduated from Allegan High School in 1957.

In 1971, Beverly married Kermit Pike and they made their home in Martin, Michigan, where Kermit owned the local grain elevator. Through their marriage, Beverly became a stepmother to Robert (Debra) Pike, Susan (Steve) Markward, and Elizabeth (Dan) Tant.

Beverly had many interests including gardening,

Beverly Claire Pike

cooking, golfing, and traveling, but her passion was decorating. She had a great talent for it and her home and garden were a showcase, especially in the summer when the flowers were in bloom. Beverly also worked outside her home at Roger's Department Store in Grand Rapids, where she formed long lasting friendships.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband, Kermit Pike, her parents; her brother, Ron Bergman; her sister, Barbara Balgoyen; and a niece. She is remembered by her stepchildren, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. May Beverly's memory bring comfort to all who were touched by her life.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society.

While visiting Beverly's webpage at www.amsfuneralhomes.com please sign the guestbook and/or share a memory with the family.

The family is being assisted by the Avink, McCowen & Secord Funeral Homes and Cremation Society, 120 S. Woodhams St. Plainwell, MI 49080 (269-685-5881).

Julia Elaine (Schafer) Boylan

Julia Elaine (Schafer) Boylan of Hopkins, MI, passed away surrounded by family on January 22, 2026. Julia was born to her late parents Emanuel and Erma (Buckhout) Schafer on May 12, 1946. She met her husband Harold Boylan and together shared 58 years of faithful marriage together. Julia dedicated her heart to Jesus at a young age and served consistently at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hopkins, MI. She grew up working hard on her brother's dairy farm, attending church, participating in the church choir, and later teaching preschool age children in Sunday School for 51 years. She cherished sharing biblical values to the younger generations, gently directing them to live with Jesus. Julia loved being a stay at home mother but worked diligently on the side selling jewelry for over 20 years with Sarah Coventry then Act II and finally with Lady Remington. On her down time, she loved reading books especially

Julia Elaine (Schafer) Boylan

the Christian Romance genre and also making lists. She was a social butterfly and loved making connections or building valued friendships anywhere she went. Julia was always ready to help anyone in the "mud" of life. She never hesitated to provide a dish or helping hand at church or in the community. Julia led by example and encouraged others to be a light in the dark.

She is survived by her husband, Harold Boylan; sister in- law Geraldine; children, Larinda (Tim) Miller, Jason (Pam) Boylan, Natasha (Scott) Little, and Yolanda Boylan; grandchildren, Samantha (Hobie) McMullen, Stephany (Jonathan Ramos) Little, Brendan (Ashley) Miller, Samuel Miller, Kerawyn Miller, Briana (Matt) Green, and Shantel Boylan; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Her parents Emanuel and Erma (Buckhout) Schafer and brother David Schafer preceded her to heaven.

Julia's first visitation will be on Monday, January 26th, from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Her second visitation will be on Tuesday, January 27th, from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM with her funeral service starting at 12:00 PM. Graveside service to follow at the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery. Both visitations, funeral service, and graveside will all take place at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at 2907 24th Street, Hopkins, MI 49328.

Memorial donations may be made in Julia's name to Wings of Hope Hospice or St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Joseph "Joe" Michael Courtney

Joseph "Joe" Michael Courtney passed peacefully on January 23, 2026. He was born to his late parents Rolland and Shirley (Singleton) Courtney on September 4, 1955, in Allegan, Michigan. Joe was an active member at the Journey Family Church in Gobles, Michigan, volunteering or lending a helping hand to anyone that needed help. He loved to assist with the baptisms, youth group activities, and community events through the Church. In his younger days, Joe loved motorcycles, especially his Harley, taking his kids on rides or just cruising the countryside. When his children were growing up, Joe enjoyed going to all the sporting events, grilling out year-round, and just being a father. He was also

Joseph "Joe" Michael Courtney

an active military supporter, volunteering a lot of his time at military functions or events.

He is survived by his children, Shane (Krista) Courtney, Derek (Brittany) Courtney, Jayce (Lacey) Courtney, and Randi Alvarez; siblings, Gayle (Ken) Stermer, Shirley Boitnott, James Courtney, Tom Courtney, Scott (Deb) Courtney, Mark Courtney, and Judy (Roger) Harvey; and 18 wonderful grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Gregory Courtney; siblings Amelia Bigelow and Rolland Jr. "Sonny" Courtney.

Joe's Memorial Service will be on Friday, January 30, from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM with 2 hours visitation beforehand from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, 528 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI, 49010.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Chocolate Stroll returns to downtown Plainwell

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Thanks to Valentine's Day, February and chocolate tend to go hand in hand.

That makes the annual Chocolate Stroll a natural fit for downtown Plainwell.

The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 7, beginning at 10 a.m., and invites visitors to grab a friend, stroll through downtown and enjoy chocolate treats while shopping local and sampling restaurant specials.

Participating businesses will offer chocolatey bites, specialty drinks and promotions throughout the day, creating a relaxed, walk-at-your-own-pace experience.

Visitors can also enjoy specialty beverages in Plainwell's social district, adding to the festive, Valentine's-themed atmosphere as they move from shop to shop.

The Chocolate Stroll takes place during participating store hours, allowing attendees to come early and make a full day of it.

Additional details, including participating businesses and specific restaurant specials, will be shared by the City of Plainwell as the event approaches.

Winter Concert Series planned at Ransom Library

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

If winter in Michigan calls for anything, it's a warm room, good company and live music—and Ransom District Library has been providing all three for more than a decade.

Now in its 14th year, the library's annual Winter Concert Series returns with five free Sunday afternoon performances, continuing a tradition that began in 2012 and has since become a favorite among patrons and staff alike.

All concerts take place from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Hill Performance Room and are free to the public.

The 2026 series opens on Sunday, Feb. 15, and continues weekly through March 15, offering a lineup that spans brass, Latin rock, Irish folk and jazz.

Here is a closer look at this year's lineup:

"Parti-Gras" with Great Lakes Brass Band – Feb. 15

The Winter Concert Series kicks off with the library's annual Parti-Gras celebration, led by the Great Lakes Brass Band.

Complimentary New Orleans–style refreshments will be provided by River Road Foods, with the event sponsored in full by the Friends of Ransom District Library.

Cabildo – Feb. 22

Cabildo is a West Michigan–based alternative Latin rock collective delivering a unique blend of rock, folk, cumbia, punk, ska and Latin American–based music.

The band draws inspiration from the "Rock en Español" movement of the 1990s, which influences many of their selections and original compositions.

Enda Reilly – March 1

Irish singer-songwriter and storyteller Enda Reilly brings the essence of Ireland to American audiences.

His performances feature intricate guitar playing, strong vocals and a cross-cultural sensibility that blends tradition with contemporary storytelling.

Rachael Davis – March 8

Multi-instrumentalist Rachael Davis is known as much for her expressive voice as for her ability to blend folk, blues, country and pop.

Originally from Michigan, Davis now calls Nashville, Tenn., home.

Keith Hall Brazilian Jazz Trio – March 15

The series concludes with the Keith Hall Brazilian Jazz Trio.

Hall is an internationally acclaimed drummer and educator based in Kalamazoo who tours internationally and appears regularly at concerts, festivals, and on television and radio programs.

Organizers encourage attendees to arrive early, as seating in the Hill Performance Room is limited.

Pictured above is Cabildo. At right is Enda Reilly Below is the Keith Hall Brazilian Jazz Trio

Plainwell to consider purchase agreement

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — The Plainwell City Council was to consider a NAPA Purchase Agreement on Monday.

It was reported local Plainwell Auto store owner David Steffen would like to purchase approximately one acre of mill property to build a new building for his business.

In June of 2024, the City entered into a purchase agreement with Steffen for one acre of land on the same property but in a different location.

For a number of reasons, it was determined by both Stefan and the City not to execute that agreement. The original purchase agreement stated closing costs would be split between Steffen and the City, and the City would pay for the survey work to create the new parcel. It also stipulated that Steffen would have 90 days for an inspection period, with closing taking place after his site plan has been approved for the building, ensuring that the land purchase would only occur if he can build his store on the property.

Since that original agreement, Plainwell moved the proposed location to be positioned along M-89 directly west of the cutout. This location is in an area that was remediated to "commercial standard". This means that this area can only be used for commercial development. This does not include any form of housing. During the building design process, the council asked the architects to create a building that would be compatible with other retail uses in the future as well as incorporating design elements from the mill buildings.

To accomplish this, they have included brick/stone in the façade. Bringing NAPA to the mill property on M-89 will allow Steffen to build a larger store and grow his business.

Having commercial businesses along M-89 would not prevent the proposed residential development from taking place on the rest of the property.

Despite this development having elicited some controversy over whether or not it is the best use for this property and whether or not it fits with the vision, city officials believe it is compatible in both use and vision. It is in line with the City's master plan, current zoning (CBD), and commercial cleanup criteria.

It brings needed development and additional property taxes for the city. Additionally, it will help a long-standing business in the community expand and grow, which is something we strive to do for all of our businesses.

The council was to consider authorizing the City Manager to negotiate the sale of approximately one (1) acre of real property of the parent parcel ID #55-030-076-01 with David Steffen at a price of $40,000 per acre.

City manager outlines priorities, expectations in new monthly update

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego City Manager Aaron Mitchell has launched a new monthly communication aimed at providing residents and visitors with regular updates on City projects, policies and operational decisions.

Mitchell said the goal of the updates is to offer an additional layer of transparency and inclusion, sharing information on current projects, future considerations and topics he believes may be helpful or of interest to the community.

"I intend on offering monthly updates for our residents and visitors," Mitchell said. "This could be pertaining to projects that we are currently working on or considering going forward with, or could just be some information that I believe would be helpful and interesting."

Water and sewer rates

Mitchell said rising costs tied to the City's water and wastewater systems will soon require action from the City Commission.

He noted that chemicals, state regulations, mandates and inflation have steadily increased operating costs, and that the City has worked for years to avoid significant rate hikes.

However, Mitchell said the City has reached a point where adjustments will be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of both systems.

"We have attempted to prevent hiking the rates, understanding that personal costs have also gone up," Mitchell said. "However, we have gotten to a point that we will be needing to do something to assure that both systems can sustain the needed costs going forward."

To determine appropriate rate changes, the City hired an independent contractor to conduct a professional rate study and provide recommendations.

That information was scheduled to be presented during a workshop held prior to the City Commission meeting on Jan. 19, with additional discussion expected during budget workshops in March and April.

Mitchell acknowledged the process may not be popular but said it is necessary.

"We understand the fact that this process will not be popular, but it is needed," he said.

Sidewalk snow responsibilities

With winter weather continuing, Mitchell addressed expectations regarding snow-covered sidewalks.

He reminded residents that property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their properties.

Mitchell said residents may notice the Department of Public Works clearing some sidewalks after snow events, typically one or two days after street cleanup is complete.

Those efforts focus on the most heavily trafficked sidewalks, many of which are used by students, and are not intended to show favoritism.

"We do this not to show favoritism, but to assure that those who utilize the main sidewalks are able to walk safely," Mitchell said.

He acknowledged the inconvenience of sidewalk clearing but emphasized its importance during winter months.

Snow plowing operations

Mitchell also outlined how the City approaches snow removal during winter storms.

He noted that plowing involves more than simply clearing streets and includes salting and, in some cases, hauling snow from the downtown area.

Ideally, DPW crews begin work around 3 a.m. following overnight snowfall, but Mitchell said weather conditions do not always cooperate.

He emphasized that Otsego's DPW consists of five employees, making it difficult to cover all hours without overtime or risking employee burnout during prolonged storm events.

"These are variables that are all considered when snow comes down," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said emergency call-ins are typically reserved for situations when roads become unpassable, and that there may be weekends when some snow or slush remains until crews can address it during the regular workweek.

"While this may be mildly inconvenient at times, it provides substantial budget savings," he said.

Remembering Chief Dave Haverdink

Mitchell shared remarks following the death of Hamilton Fire Chief Dave Haverdink, who was struck by a vehicle at an accident scene last month and later passed away.

Mitchell said he knew Haverdink through service on the Allegan County 911 Policy and Procedures Board and described him as both an excellent person and a valuable resource in emergency response.

"At the age of 74, Dave had been serving his community in different roles for 51 years," Mitchell said. "That is an amazing commitment to one's community."

Mitchell said replacing Haverdink will be a difficult task and noted the importance of long-serving public servants across Allegan County.

"Allegan County would not be the place that it is without people like Dave Haverdink," he said. "The amount of institutional knowledge that is placed within a few individuals across the county is remarkable."

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Best Sports Column
Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026

Otsego girls stay atop conference standings with victory over Sturgis

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—It's been said that good things come to those who wait.

That proved to be true for Otsego girls basketball coach Tony Koshar and his team as it related to the showdown with Sturgis.

The game, which featured the top two teams in the Wolverine Conference standings, was originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 23, before being pushed to Monday, Jan. 26, due to inclement weather.

And it was the Bulldogs who survived for the 43-39 victory, moving them to 7-0 in the conference.

Sturgis slipped to 6-2 in league play, with both of those losses coming to Otsego.

"This was a big win for us," Koshar said. "To take both games from Sturgis puts us in a good spot. But we still have half of our league games remaining, so we have to take care of business each time we step on the court."

The Bulldogs' lead stood at a razor-thin 40-39 late in the game when Audrey Lingbeek—the lone senior on the roster—buried a pair of free throws. To make it 42-39.

Then, following a defensive stop, Otsego got one free throw from Brooke Smalldon with 1.1 seconds remaining to effectively put the game away.

Lingbeek finished with 10 points, which was second on the team behind Mya Engber's 12. Smalldon nearly gave the Bulldogs a third double-digit scorer, going for nine points.

Smalldon also snagged 12 rebounds.

Otsego struggled offensively for much of the first half, trailing 15-10 with about three minutes remaining in the first half.

But the Bulldogs closed the half on a high note, scoring the final eight points before halftime to take the 18-15 lead.

That momentum carried over the third quarter, as Otsego opening the frame on a 15-4 spurt to increase its advantage to 14 at 33-19.

But Sturgis wasn't, to paraphrase Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, about to go quietly into that good night and closed the quarter with eight straight points. That narrowed the gap to 33-27, setting up the fourth-quarter dramatics.

Otsego senior Audrey Lingbeek puts up a shot during her team's win over Sturgis. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Plainwell shakes off rust to beat Portage Northern

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—It took Plainwell's girls basketball team a quarter to shake off the rust, but once the Trojans found their rhythm, they left little doubt.

After two games last week were postponed due to weather, Plainwell pulled away for a 62–44 win over Portage Northern, using a dominant second half to turn a close game into a comfortable victory.

The teams were tied at 8–8 after the first quarter, but Plainwell began to settle in during the second. The Trojans held a 22–19 halftime lead before erupting after the break.

"We came out of the gate a little rusty after sitting for a week without a single game," Plainwell coach Elexis Buchanan said. "It took us until about the end of the first quarter to get back in the swing of things."

Once they did, the Trojans took control.

Plainwell poured in 27 points in the third quarter, finishing the half with 40 of its 62 points coming after halftime.

"Our starters seemed to come alive tonight and fed off each other's energy," Buchanan said. "We've been emphasizing production and what that looks like, and the girls went out and did just that."

Four Trojans scored in double figures, led by Alyssa Weldon, who finished with 18 points. Anna Overway followed with 17, while Tessie Kiel added 11 points and Alayna Ranney chipped in 10.

Buchanan also credited Plainwell's bench for providing key minutes early.

"We had some big minutes from our bench," she said. "They accepted the jobs no one else wanted to do, and I'll take that type of player any day."

Kiel's defensive energy played a key role in the Trojans' surge, as her pressure led to several turnovers that turned into points.

"Tessie and her ball-hawking forced a few key turnovers," Buchanan said. "That led to some big points for us."

Buchanan also praised Portage Northern for its early intensity.

"They're young, scrappy and tough," she said. "They came out swinging and gave us a quick gut-punching reality check."

With two conference games remaining this week, Buchanan said the matchup served as a valuable test.

"We have two more games this week, both conference," she said. "Playing a team like this really sets the stage for what's to come."

Overway added nine rebounds and Ranney finished with seven steals.

Plainwell's Alyssa Weldon drives through traffic during the Trojans' home game with Portage Northern. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Trojans post win over Bulldogs on mats

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—Due to heavy snow and extreme cold, Otsego and Plainwell school districts cancelled school for the entire week that started on Monday, Jan. 19.

But not even Mother Nature could stop the wrestling match between the archrivals, as the Trojans hosted the Bulldogs on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

And the evening started on a high note for Otsego, as Trevor VanderRoest scored a 10-0 major decision over Owen Young at 144 pounds for a quick 4-0 lead for the Bulldogs.

The rest of the match, though, largely belonged to Plainwell.

The Trojans claimed victories in 11 of the remaining 13 weight classes—including eight via pin and one via forfeit—to cruise to the 61-13 win in this Wolverine Conference showdown.

Following Vanderroest win, Plainwell got first-round pins from Austin Gyorkos (over Sawyer Kalkman) at 150 and Thomas Almaguer (over Blake Mathieu) at 157.

That gave Plainwell the 12-4 lead.

Otsego narrowed the gap to 12-10 thanks to a forfeit win for Lane Blanchard at 165, but the Bulldogs would get no closer.

Plainwell got three straight pins from Aiden Beck (in 45 seconds over Gabe Conley at 175), Truman Summerer (in 3:02 over Caige McNees at 190) and Carter Richie (in 3:53 over Jose Serrano at 215).

Otsego got a brief reprieve from Ryder Balkema at 285, as he scored the 6-2 decision over Chase Bergsma.

But Plainwell won the final six matches to pull away and put an exclamation mark on the victory.

Earning those wins for the Trojans were: Madison Nieuwenhuis (forfeit at 106); Javan Mills (17-9 major decision over Connon Mitchell at 113); Tyler Cooper (pin in :48 over Kaleb Cole at 120); Dylan Nieuwenhuis (pin in :47 over Chance Carroll at 126); Grandy Erlandson (2-0 decision over Zeke Andrina at 132); and Brennan Dull (pin in 3:31 over Noah Barber at 138).

The triumph kept Plainwell in second place in the Wolverine Conference standings with a 4-1 record. Three Rivers completed the regular-season portion of its league schedule at 7-0.

Otsego slipped to 2-3 in conference action, putting the Bulldogs in a tie for fifth place with Edwardsburg.

Plainwell's Austin Gyorkos (top) was one of eight Trojans to secure pins in the match with Otsego. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Mya Engbers
Otsego
Girls Basketball

On Monday, Jan. 26, the Otsego girls basketball team hosted Sturgis in a battle of the top two teams in the Wolverine Conference.

And thanks to a strong defensive effort and some timely baskets, the Bulldogs won 43-39 to improve to 7-0 in the league.

Mya Engbers led a balanced scoring attack with 12 points. She also finished with three steals, tying for the team lead in that category.

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Otsego bowling teams show improvement against Sturgis

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BRONSON—Otsego's boys and girls bowling teams continue to show improvement and resilience as the regular season continues, turning in several strong individual and team performances despite facing tough competition.

The most recent action came Monday, Jan. 26, when the Bulldogs traveled to Bronson to face Sturgis on the Trojans' senior night.

Although Otsego came up short in the final scores, head coach Chuck Kinnane was pleased with how both teams competed and the number of personal and season-best performances recorded.

The Otsego girls faced one of the top teams in the area and dropped the match 28–2, though the contest was closer than the final score indicated. Otsego lost the first baker game by just two pins and the second by 13 pins, trailing 10–0 despite staying competitive on the lanes.

In regular games, sophomore Addy Maisel posted the best series of her career with games of 147 and 136 for a 283 total. Sophomore Channing Dobbs also turned in a career-best 150 game and finished with a 258 series, with both bowlers earning individual points.

Senior Mattie Slotman added a 258 series, while freshman Abbie Wheeler recorded a 141 game.

The Otsego boys also kept pace with Sturgis before falling 21–9. One additional mark in the opening baker game could have resulted in a 15–15 tie and a potential rolloff.

Sophomore Conor Taylor, a first-year bowler who moved into the varsity lineup five weeks ago, continued his rapid improvement. Taylor rolled a career-high 208 game and followed with a 164 for a 372 series, earning both of his individual points.

Junior Mason Van Houten posted a personal-best series with games of 154 and 164 for 318, while senior Jayce Selby rolled a career-high 208 in his second game. Senior captain Cole Kortokrax remained steady with another 350-plus series.

"I'm proud of how hard the kids competed against this level of competition," Kinnane said. "Back to work Monday."

Otsego faced Paw Paw twice the previous week, competing on Wednesday, Jan. 21, and Saturday, Jan. 24.

On Jan. 24, the Otsego boys earned a 28–2 victory, sweeping the baker games and winning the majority of individual points. Kortokrax led the Bulldogs with a 425 series, while Selby added a 227 series and Conor Taylor finished with a 257 series.

The Otsego girls won 20–10. Dobbs led the way with a 287 series, while Madelyn Burling rolled a 210 series and Addison Maisel added a 142 game.

In the Jan. 21 meeting, the Otsego boys earned a 28–2 victory, highlighted by strong baker performances and balanced scoring in regular games. Kortokrax recorded a 324 series, while Selby and Van Houten each posted series of 260 or better

The Otsego girls fell in a competitive match but continued to show steady improvement. Dobbs led the Bulldogs with a 252 series, while Emma Gibson rolled a 246 series and Sadie Jacobs added a 217 total.

Martin boys compete well in loss to Colon

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

COLON—After having its previous two games postponed due to inclement weather, the Martin boys basketball team returned to action when it traveled to Colon for a non-league clash on Monday, Jan. 26.

And while the Clippers came away with a 67-55 loss, Martin coach Corby Callaway saw plenty of positive to take from the contest.

"First of all, it just felt good to finally be back on the court," said Callaway, whose team fell to 3-10. "Our guys played hard and did some really nice things. Colon is a good team (10-2), but I thought we did a good job of competing."

Ethan Fitzpatrick had a strong offensive showing in the loss, scoring a career-best 26 points. He also had four steals.

"Ethan did a really nice job," Callaway said. "His scoring kept us in the game."

The Clippers trailed 16-11 after one quarter, were down 37-24 at halftime and faced a 56-40 deficit when the third stanza ended.

Martin did finish strong, holding a 15-11 scoring edge in the final frame.

"We still have some things we have to clean up, but we are heading in the right direction," Callaway said. "We are close to turning the corner. We're focusing on the performance, not the outcome."

Mani Smit added nine points in the loss, while Jason Marshall added six points, seven assists, three steals and two blocks.

"It was nice seeing our freshman Mani scoring his career high and Jason, a sophomore, continues to develop into a really good player for us," Callaway said. "He stuffs the stat sheet and just plays so hard."

Blake Sweeting added 11 rebounds, four assists and three blocks for Martin.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
COUNTY LOCAL HOT MIX ASPHALT PAVING

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M-89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, and at such time be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

I. HOT MIX ASPHALT PAVEMENT

Hot Mix Asphalt paving (Michigan Department of Transportation Specification: 4EL) in Allegan, Casco, Dorr, Fillmore, Ganges, Gun Plain, Heath, Lee, Leighton, Manlius, Martin, Overisel, Saugatuck, and Valley Townships.

Complete specifications and bid forms are available at the Road Commission office and the Road Commission website www.alleganroads.org under the Projects link.

Bidders must be prequalified by the Michigan Department of Transportation to perform Paving Construction.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

BID DEPOSIT of at least 5% of the bid amount will be required for each project bid upon. A single bid check may be submitted to cover all projects bid. The Bid Deposit may be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

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Trailblazers suffer first loss of season in tough battle

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MUSKEGON—It's been said that all good things must eventually come to an end.

For the Saugatuck girls basketball team, the end of its season-opening winning streak ended at the hands of host Western Michigan Christian on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Not that the Trailblazers went down without a fight.

After falling behind 25-17 at the end of the opening stanza, Saugatuck battled all the way back to take a 54-52 lead late in the final frame.

But WMC wouldn't be denied, ending the game on a 7-1 scoring run to claim the 59-55 victory.

The loss was the first of the season for the Trailblazers following eight straight wins.

Despite the game's outcome, Saugatuck coach Kevin Tringali had nothing but praise for his team when it came to its effort level.

"I am incredibly proud of how scratched and clawed are way back tonight," he said. "It's been a crazy week with the weather and no school, yet our kids stayed relentless until the final buzzer."

Tringali knew going into the game that WMC would present a formidable challenge, especially on its home court. And that's exactly the reason he wanted to schedule the game, similar to the road contest against Zeeland West the previous week.

"They are a very good and physical team as this was yet another great test for us," Tringali said of WMC. "We are so thankful we got this in and, just like Zeeland West, I feel we need to play against these strong programs in some tough environments."

Saugatuck beat Zeeland West, which entered the game unbeaten, 43-40 on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

"Tonight's result changes absolutely nothing for us," Tringali said. "All of our season goals are still in front of us.

After finding itself down by eight points after the opening stanza, Saugatuck methodically fought back. The deficit stood at 30-24 at halftime and was down to a single point at 46-45 at the end of the third quarter.

And while the Trailblazers did take the 54-52 lead, they weren't quite able to put the game away.

"We just couldn't finish possessions down the stretch," Tringali said. "I promise you we will cringe when we watch film and see our missed opportunities. But I also promise we will grow and be better for it."

Mylah Simpson scored a team-topping 22 points in the loss. Penelope Grob and Charlee Gustafson joined her in double figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Gustafson also had a team-best five rebounds.

Talia Laskowski chipped in with eight points, six assists and three steals.

Ada Roth and Jordan Sanders rounded out the scoring for Saugatuck with two points each.

Saugatuck senior Penny Grob looks for an open teammate in a recent game. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Fennville girls upend Bloomingdale

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—Amiyah Johnson and Ceeley Howard formed quite the one-two punch for the Fennville girls basketball when the Blackhawks hosted Bloomingdale on Monday, Jan. 26.

Johnson scored a game-best 19 points and Howard added 14 points to lead Fennville to the 53-36 victory.

Howard also doled out seven assists in the win.

The Blackhawks wasted no time in taking control of the game, jumping out to a 14-5 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was nearly identical, as Fennville held a 13-5 advantage to take a 27-10 lead to the intermission.

Bloomingdale did mount a comeback attempt in the third stanza, using a 22-12 edge to narrow its deficit to seven points at 39-32. But Fennville, behind the offensive exploits of Johnson and Howard, wouldn't be denied.

Adriana Hicks added six points and 10 rebounds in the win. Lily Achterhof chipped in with eight rebounds.

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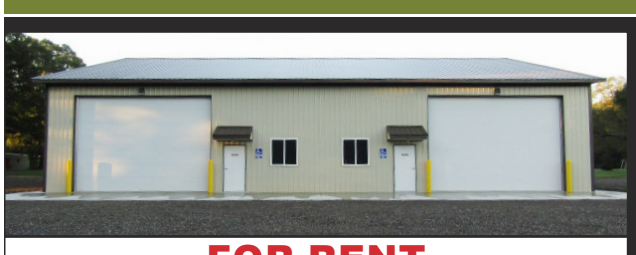
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Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

At a news interview while at a Ford factory in Detroit, President Trump announced that the economic boom has begun. Now, it is your turn to respond: Do you think the economic boom has already begun?

-Woman near the Fennville hardware store: "Nope. Not seeing it. Not here. Not yet anyway."

-Couple, same location: Man: "That's just another one of his lies. I needed a new saw-all, and should have bought it at the time, back a few months. Then his tariffs kicked in and the price all but doubled. We're paying those tariffs. If that's an idea of an economic boom, it's not for the working man." Woman: "What economic boom? Where? It sure isn't around here."

-Man near the Blue Goose: "All he wants is for all of us to do is help out a little to make the country stronger and better. We have to do our part, that's all. And I don't think you have any right to ask questions like that!"

-Woman near the Fennville grocery store: "What economic boom? Prices are sky high, so if there is a boom, who is benefiting? It sure isn't me and my family. We're worse off."

-Man near the Allegan Public Library: "Take a look around here. You think you'd see so many vacant stores if there was a boom? Huh? He's nuts."

-Couple in front of A-Tech; Woman: "We used less gas and electric in December than the year before. Guess what? It cost more! That's not right. I don't know how we can afford another three years of him!" Man: "If we flip the House and Senate this November, it'll be a big kick in his pants." Woman: "I hope so!"

-Woman near the Huntington Bank: "I don't know. I know some people have got it a little rough right now, but we'll get through this and come out stronger. That's what counts. We have to hang in there with our President."

-Woman with her: "You really believe that? It's just another one of his diversions so he doesn't have to come clean about Epstein."

-Woman near Sassy Olive: "I'm not saying anything. I don't want to get in trouble with the government for saying the wrong thing. Better safe than sorry these days!"

Martin Township is currently taking applications for a treasurer.

Applicant is to reside in Township of Martin. Must have understanding of banking and finance, book keeping and tax collecting. Must also have experience with Excel and other computer programs. Please send resume to Martin Township, PO Box 27, Martin MI 49070 or email to jwharton@martintownship.org.

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M 89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, February 11, 2026, and at such time be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

ROADSIDE MOWING – Mowing along local and primary roads in various townships of Allegan County for 2026-2028.

Complete specifications and bid forms are available at the Road Commission Office and on our website at www.alleganroads.org under Materials and Service Bids.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

No bid deposit will be required.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

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ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
COUNTY LOCAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Sealed bids will be received by the Allegan County Road Commission at their office at 1308 Lincoln Road (M-89), Allegan, Michigan until 11:00 a.m., Local Time, February 11, 2026 and, at such time, be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

PROJECT NO. PT 2222 – Centerline and edgeline pavement markings for roads in Allegan County, City of Allegan, City of Fennville, City of Wayland and the Village of Martin.

Complete specifications and bid forms are available at the Road Commission office and online at www.alleganroads.org under Materials & Service Bids.

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the Road Commission and sealed in envelopes with the name and address of the bidder, and the item bid upon clearly marked thereon.

A bid deposit of at least 5% of the bid amount will be required for this item. The bid deposit may be in the form of certified check, cashier's check or bid bond.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept the bid that is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Allegan.

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Feb. 1, 1951

Enlistments Cut Call for March County Draft: A high rate of enlistments from Allegan County appears to be cutting the local draft quotas, Mrs. Helen Gray, selective service clerk, reported this week.

From the February quota of 110 to be called for physical examinations, only 10 will get exams in March, according to present orders. Only 10 of the county's 170 4-F classified men come under the new 4-F review regulation, Mrs. Gray said.

Naming this month's inductees, who leave Feb. 8 for service, the board also announced three who volunteered for immediate induction. They include Jack C. Roberts, Plainwell; Newell E. Wood, Otsego; and Roger A. Walker, Dorr.

Called for induction are Bernard A. Wisniewski, Milo M. Genser, Dorr; Lawrence R. Farrah, Donald Ter Avset, Hopkins; Jay Broeker, Carl Henthorn, Hamilton; Fred L. Schoenboom, John W. Hathaway, Jr., Plainwell; Laverne J. Lohman, Chester Nykerk, and Norman Barkell, Holland; Lawrence Herbert, Saugatuck; Henry Van Der Meer, Donald Richardson and Ernest J. Horton, Otsego; George M. Latchaw, Pullman; Kenneth Orr, Fillmore, California; and George Bender, Chicago.

Jan. 29, 1976

Fennville girl is musical ambassador: Tracy Michelle Dickinson, a junior at Fennville High School has been selected by the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International program to represent her community and the United States as a musical goodwill ambassador in Europe next summer.

Miss Dickinson, who sings alto in Blue Lake's 1976 international choir, is the daughter of Charles and Sally Dickinson and lives at 510 W. Main St. in Fennville.

Students from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois were selected after private auditions on the basis of voice quality and sight reading and personal interviews. Students are chosen on the basis of character as well as musical ability.

Program Director Gretchen Stansell has announced that three groups, the international band, choir, and youth symphony, will perform programs of American music with a bicentennial spirit.

The students will spend 32 days in Europe visiting Holland, Luxembourg, France, and Germany, and will stay in homes of foreign families.

Feb. 1, 2001

Community center signs church option: Following morning worship Sunday, Jan. 28, the Allegan First Baptist Church convened a business meeting to consider sale of the denomination's downtown property. The congregation voted at a rate of 97 percent to turn over the church on Trowbridge Street to Allegan Area Community Center Inc.

AACCI President Lou Thierwechter hailed the vote as the beginning of the real job of creating a community center.

"Our work is cut out for us," Thierwechter said. "But the rewards will be there for anyone who has the courage to dream and the desire to work to provide a center that serves the surrounding community."

Baptist deacon board director Kevin Pike said a community center was an appropriate use for the old building.

"The First Baptist Church and its members are excited that the future use of the church will be to continue to serve the people of Allegan County," Pike said.

The Baptists agreed to first lease and then sell to AACCI the century-old church building at 330 Trowbridge St. The purchase price has been set at $500,000. AACCI committed to a lease on the historic church until Dec. 31, 2001, an exclusive option to buy the building and a grace period until the end of 2002 to complete purchase.

Thierwechter said the terms of the agreement, signed Monday morning, are a little more exact than that. "We have to notify the church that we're going to exercise our option to purchase the building by Nov. 30, 2001," he said.

Pike said the target date for the Baptists to move into a new $3.2 million church on M-40 south near the city limits is Dec. 1, 2001.

Feb. 4, 2021

$25 million solar array coming to Lee Township: Lee Township in Allegan County received the news that sPower out of Salt Lake City, Utah would be constructing a solar-powered generating station in the township. The $25 million 220-acre array will be installed near Pullman.

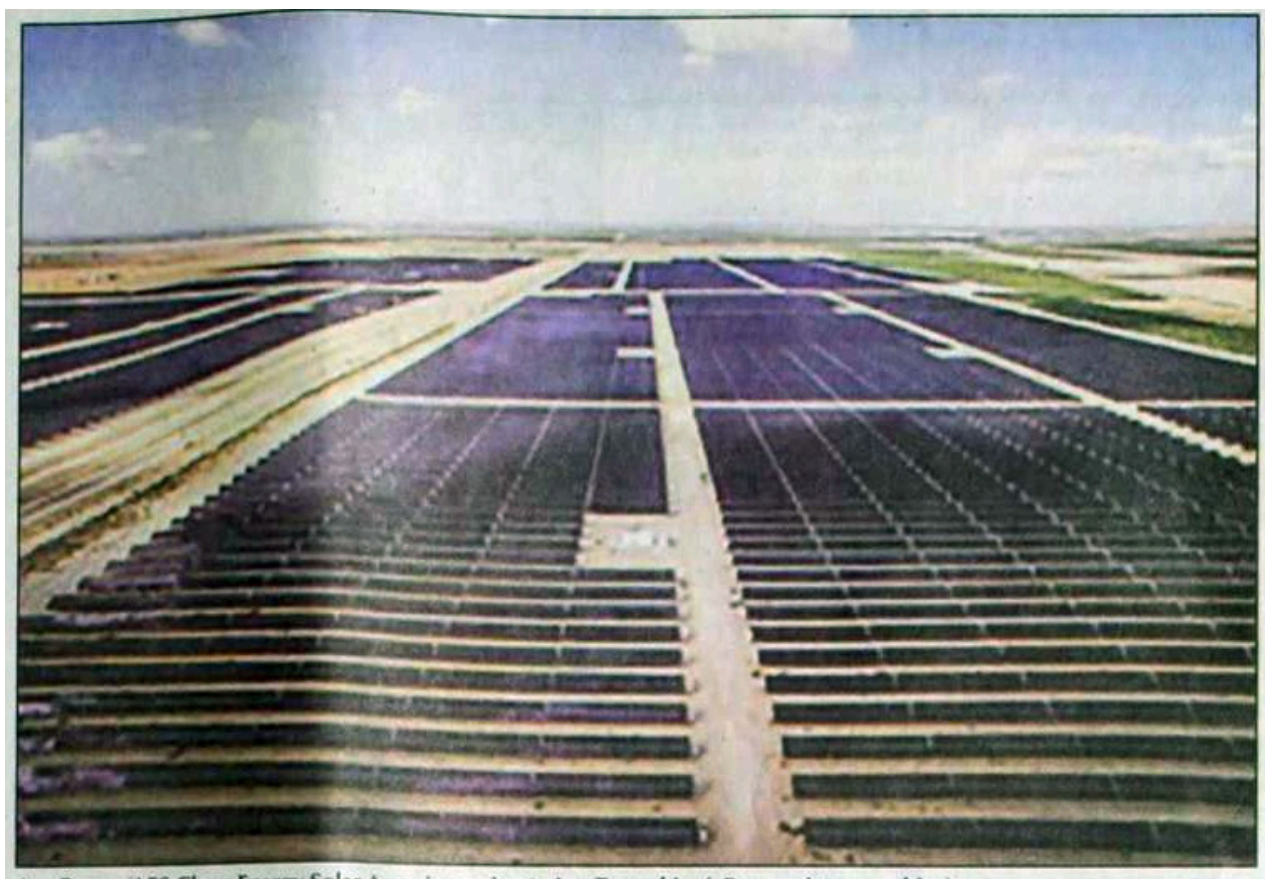
sPower has been a leading independent power producer (IPP) that owns and operates more than 150 renewable generation systems across the U.S. They operate not only solar stations, but also a wind and storage portfolio of nearly 2.0 GW, with 15 GW of projects under development. According to reports, sPower has eight stations under construction in Michigan.

sPower became AES Clean Energy when it was acquired by the Fortune 500 global power company AES Corporation and Canada's largest institutional investment manager AIMCo in 2018. sPower's headquarters are in Salt Lake City, but there are regional centers in San Francisco and Long Beach, California, Richmond, Virginia and Brooklyn, New York. AES Energy is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia and now with sPower generates and distributes electric power in 15 countries around the world. These partnerships allow sPower to maintain the more than 15,000 megawatts of renewable energy they construct and support.

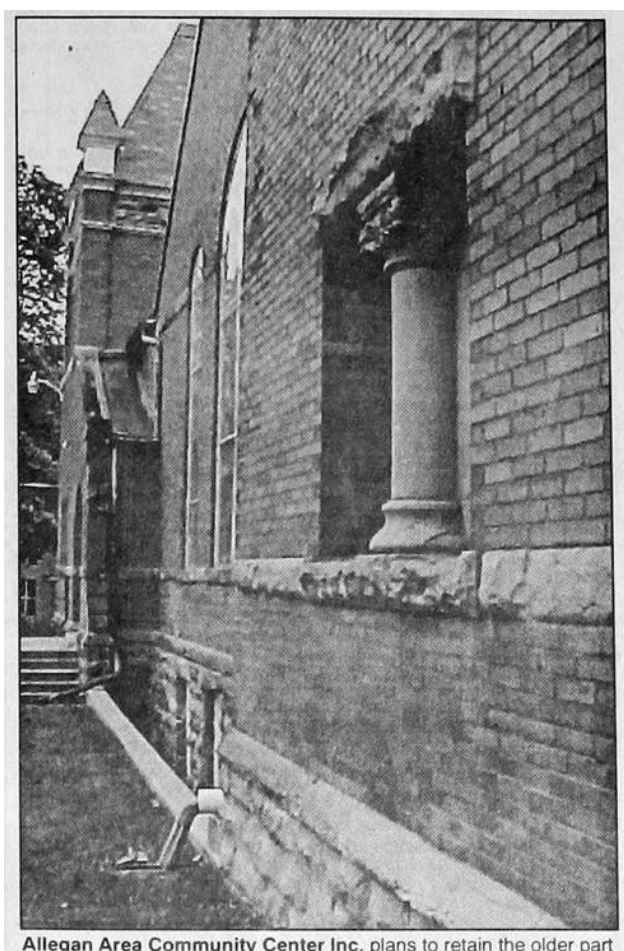
A gigawatt (GW) is a unit of metric measurement of power. The gigawatt is equal to one billion watts (10^9 W), which creates much needed electricity in Michigan. Frank Krazcel of AES Clean Energy confirmed that the energy from the solar array has been contracted to Consumers Energy.

Krazcel explained that conversations regarding this project began in 2017. Visits to the area and research led to the identification of about 220 acres south of Pullman. The project received the name Pullman Solar and has grown from there. In accord with their mission, the now AES Clean Energy has already polled area leaders to determine local needs and has contributed to the local food bank and the Pullman Scholarship Fund.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk



An sPower/AES Clean Energy Solar Array is coming to Lee Township. (sPower picture archive)



Allegan Area Community Center Inc. plans to retain the older part of the Baptist church and restore it, despite the repairs which are needed. Earlier options on the church called for demolition of the older portion of the property. (Photo by Dan Kelsey)

Tracy Dickinson of Fennville gets some pointers from Charles Canaan, director of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's 1976 International Choir.

Deaths

Dec. 24, 2025
KENNETH WAYNE CARTWRIGHT, 83, Valley Twp.

Jan. 1, 2026
EDWARD EVART GARVIN, 88, Allegan

Jan. 4, 2026
JEFFREY VANCARTER, 56, Trowbridge Twp.

Jan. 7, 2026
DAVID GILFORD BURGESS JR, 59, Laketown Twp.

Jan. 8, 2026
JOHN WOLFIS, 92, Wayland
MARALYN ANN SLIKKERS, 96, Saugatuck
SANDRA LEE KUIPERS, 83, Manlius Twp.

Jan. 9, 2026
NORMA JEAN LEWIS, 71, Otsego
WILLIAM JOSEPH MALANE, 82, Laketown Twp.
LON LAVERN ARNDT, 71, Hopkins Twp.

Jan. 10, 2026
RANDALL LEE KAMMERAAD, 71, Manlius Twp.

Jan. 11, 2026
LESLIE ANNE MULDER, 74, Hopkins Twp.

Jan. 13, 2026
ANDREW JON SMIT, 49, Manterey Twp.

Jan. 14, 2026
PATRICIA ANNE GUERRIN, 93, Holland

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Jan. 13 and Jan. 21:

SHEA EDWARD SKINNER, Fennville, and **KIRSTIN ANNETTE LOPEZ**, Fennville

AMANDA SUE MCCUTCHEON, Otsego, and **CAMBRON BRYCE MCCUTCHEON**, Otsego

JESSICA MARIE KAYLOR, Allegan, and **ALEXANDER JOSEPH EBY**, Owosso

MICHAEL LAWRENCE DEAN JR, Plainwell, and **CASSANDRA LYNN ADAMS**, Holland

MICHELLE PENA, Fennville, and **CLIFFORD JAMES GARLOCK III**, Fennville

ALLEN LEE DEBOER, Hamilton, and **CAROL ANN RANKENS**, Zeeland

SUDOKU

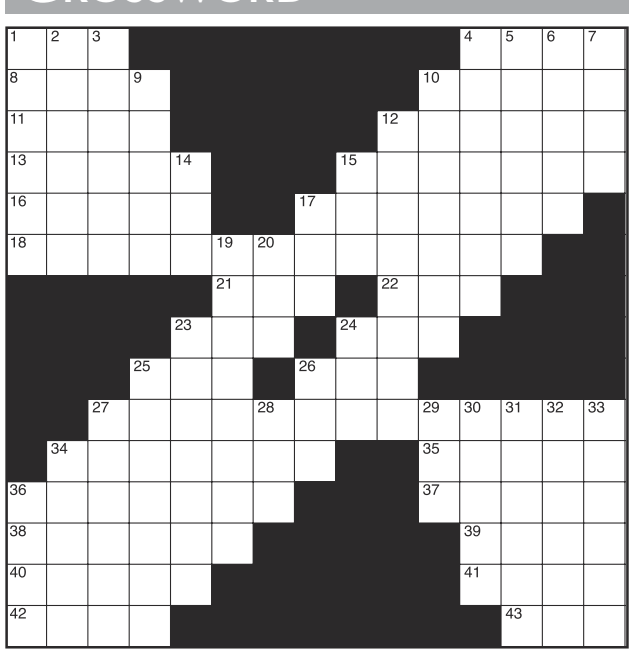
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	4				7		5	
	3	9			1		6	
	1							
				1	6			2
							4	
5				2			9	
				6				
	9		3		2			7
2			4				1	6

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Racket sport pros
4. Make tea
8. City South of Moscow
10. Spanish bullfighting term
11. Egg-shaped
12. Could not remember
13. French modernist painter
15. Persons
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Professions
18. Is up to the task
21. Wood or metal bolt
22. Tax collector
23. A way to save for the future
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between north and northeast
26. High schoolers' test
27. Does not accept responsibility
34. One who prepares
35. Gout-indicative deposits
36. Place to play games
37. Book of Genesis character
38. Cleans oneself
39. Unloaded for money
40. Genus of flowering plants
41. Take a puff
42. Congressmen
43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of bomb
2. South Pacific islands
3. Celestial body
4. Negotiates
5. Consider in a specified way
6. Type of group in organic chemistry
7. Buddhist monasteries
9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
10. Body part
12. Milestone birthday
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. More (Spanish)
17. Chicago ballplayer
19. Leaves a place
20. Cannot be found
23. One's internal body parts
24. Tell on
25. North American peoples of southwest
26. Soviet Socialist Republic
27. Extract used for jams and jellies
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Old English letter
30. A way to exaggerate
31. Get up and leave
32. 'Boardwalk Empire' character
33. More generous
34. Hanging cloth used as a blind
36. Ancient Greek sophist

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Martin L. Shoemaker, a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

Date of Mortgage: September 30, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 18, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $139,225.96

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1, Shoemaker Subdivision, part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 12, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, as recorded in Liber 13 of Plats on Pages 66 and 67.

Common street address (if any): 3383 26th St, Hopkins, MI 49328-9738

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 8, 2026

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1581481

(01-08)(01-29)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Gene Roper and Louise Roper to Wyndham Capital Mortgage, Inc. dated August 25, 2017 and recorded August 30, 2017 in Liber 4171 at Page 811, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $143,093.05. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: The land referred to in this instrument, situated in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, is described as follows: Lot 12, Re-plat of part of Lots 3 and 4, Lowes Divisional Map, City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 10 of Plats, Page 35, Allegan County Records. Parcel ID No(s).: 03-51-255-012-00 Said property is commonly known as 258 Lowe St, Allegan, MI 49010. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 5, 2026 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-34994

(01-08)(01-29)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE 48th CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

Case No. 25-71465-CZ

HON. MATTHEW ANTKOVIAK

ALLEGAN MOBILE ESTATES, LLC

D/B/A VILLAGE EAST MOBILE HOME PARK, a Michigan Limited Liability Company,

Plaintiff,

VS.

THE ESTATE OF NORMA DEEN BOYNTON (DECEASED), ANY AND ALL HEIRS, and ANY UNKNOWN OWNERS,

Defendant.

Patrick A. Dykstra (P64436)

Jesson & Dykstra PLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

2010 44th Street, SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

(616) 455-5200

law@vandamjesson.com

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

"An action seeking an order that Plaintiff is entitled to a new Mobile Home Title from the Michigan Secretary of State, to a certain 2000 Spring Creek Commander Identification Number: CHINI00460TG located at 1205 Starlite Dr. Lot 82, Allegan, MI 49010, has been commenced by Allegan Mobile Estates, LLC d/b/a Village East Mobile Home Park against the Estate and Heirs of Normal Deen Boynton, and any Unknown Owners in the Allegan County Circuit Court for the State of Michigan. Defendants must answer or take other action permitted by law within 28 days after the last date of publication, If Defendants do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered for the relief demanded in the complaint."

1-15 1-29

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ezra B. Ling, single man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Neighborhood Loans, Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 2, 2021 and recorded March 5, 2021 in Liber 4586, Page 247 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighty-One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Four and 57/100 Dollars ($81,224.57).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

Said premises are located in the City of Plainwell, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 47, Batchelor and Dunham's Addition to the Village (now City) of Plainwell, excepting therefrom a three cornered piece of land lying directly South of Lot No. 49, of the same addition, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Allegan County, Michigan, in Liber 43 of Deeds, Page 624.

182 W 1st Ave, Plainwell, Michigan 49080

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 15, 2026

File No. 25-016268

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-15)(02-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James Henry Starling, a single person and Melissa Kay Weimer, a single person. Original Mortgagee: 21st Mortgage Corporation. Date of Mortgage: December 23, 2019. Date of Mortgage Recording: December 26, 2019 in Liber 4415, Page 895, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Amount claimed due on date of notice: two hundred nineteen thousand three hundred fifteen and 54/100 Dollars ($219,315.54), including interest. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Manlius, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, to wit: Remainder of Parent Parcel - Beginning at the North 1/4 post of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 15 West, Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds West on the North and South 1/4 line, 1858.42 feet to the centerline of Old Allegan Road; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West on same, 954.62 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 437.40 feet; thence North 40 degrees 21 minutes 20 seconds West 600.00 feet; thence North 54 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds East 13.65 feet; thence East 313.75 feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds East 414.00 feet to the North Section line; thence East on same, 325.00 feet to the place of beginning, and all improvements thereon. Common street address: 5510 130th Avenue, Fennville, Michigan 49408. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. This sale may be rescinded or set aside by the foreclosing mortgagee. In such event, damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return or refund of the bid amount tendered at such sale, together with interest. Dated: January 8, 2026 21st Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee By: Richard A. Green Law Offices of Richard A. Green 30150 Telegraph Road, Ste. 444 Bingham Farms, MI 48025 (248) 924-2354 1/15/26, 1/22/26, 1/29/26, 2/5/26

(01-15)(02-05)

MORTGAGE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, Michigan starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the Property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county Register of Deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The Mortgage being foreclosed was given by John E. Parks and Inez Parks, husband and wife and John E. Parks as Trustee of The John E. Parks Living Trust under Agreement dated March 18, 1992 to The United States of America, acting through the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture. The Mortgage is dated September 25, 2008 and was recorded on October 16, 2008 in Liber 3269, starting on page 754 of the Allegan County Records. No proceedings have been instituted to recover any part of the debt which is Two Hundred Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Five and 81/100 Dollars ($240,805.81) Dollars as of January 15, 2026. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the Property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the Allegan County Register of Deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for their information. The Mortgage will be foreclosed by selling the property described below at a public auction to the highest bidder. The sale will be held on February 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the East front entrance to the Allegan County Building in Allegan, Michigan, which is the location of the Allegan County Circuit Court. The property will be sold to pay the amount then due on the Mortgage, including interest at the rate of 5.00% per year, legal costs, attorney fees and any taxes or insurance which may be paid by the mortgagee before the sale. The property to be sold is located in Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan and is more specifically described in the Mortgage as: The East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 15 West (the "Property"). The street address of the Property is V/L 54th Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010. The redemption period will expire six (6) months from the date of the sale. The redemption period may be extinguished as provided in MCL 600.3238.Please be advised that if the Property is actually sold at a foreclosure sale pursuant to the procedures provided in MCL 600.3200 et. seq., as is currently anticipated by this Notice of Mortgage Sale, then in such event, the borrowers will be responsible to the person who buys the Property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the Property during the redemption period as provided in MCL 600.3278. Please be further advised that the redemption period may also be extinguished under the circumstances described in MCL 600.3238. The name, address and telephone number of the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage is: John R. Tucker, Esq. WINEGARDEN, HALEY, LINDHOLM, TUCKER & HIMELHOCH, PLC G-9460 S. Saginaw Street, Suite A Grand Blanc, MI 48439 810-767-3600 Dated: January 15, 2026 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PREPARED BY: John R. Tucker, Esq. P-37348 Winegarden, Haley, Lindholm, Tucker & Himelhoch, PLC G-9460 S. Saginaw Street, Suite A Grand Blanc, MI 48439 810-767-3600

(01-15)(02-05)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Miriaixcel Cardona, a married woman, as her sole and separate property, whose address is 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, Michigan 49450, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc., d/b/a Aspire Lending, being a mortgage dated November 4, 2015, and recorded on November 13, 2015 in Liber 3980 Page 705, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated April 13, 2022 and recorded on April 13, 2022 in Liber 4750 Page 84, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said assignment was repeated dated December 21, 2022 and recorded on December 21, 2022 in Liber 4824 Page 933, and on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND 28/100 ($73,300.28). Said premises are situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 64, 65 AND 66 OF VIO ASHDALE'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PULLMAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS ON PAGE 12. Street Address: 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, Michigan 49450 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY,PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: January 15, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 26 6927

(01-15)(02-05)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 19, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Emily Capitano-Kosanke and Steven Kosanke, wife and husband

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 9, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $122,446.05

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The West 1/2 Lot 28 of Gores Addition and Lot 29 of Gores Addition, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, on Page 27, Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1053 Bloomfield Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-1505

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 22, 2026

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1582863

(01-22)(02-12)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, His Wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded September 30, 2004 in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on November 12, 2008 in Liber 3275, Page 667, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 2014 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and 42/100 dollars ($133,591.42). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Property Address:282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: January 29, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J.

(01-29)(02-19)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Scott C. Goodman a married man & Maria Goodman, his wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC DBA Vamortgagecenter.com DBA Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated December 30, 2011, and recorded on January 10, 2012, in Liber 3580, Page 323, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 15, 2025 and recorded October 15, 2025 in Liber 5077, Page 854, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Four and 93/100 ($154,174.93) including interest at the rate of 3.75000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of MANLIUS, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot(s) 11 of Greenfield Estates according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 14 of Plats, Page 20 of Allegan County Records And Part of the Northeast 1/4 and part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 1, Town 3 North, Range 15 West Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 9, Greenfield Estates, Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence South 87 degrees 58 minutes 30 seconds East 330.00 feet along the South line of said Greenfield Estates, to the Southeast corner of Lot 11 of said Greenfield Estates; thence South 41 degrees 07 minutes 38 seconds West 151.63 feet; thence South 05 degrees 46 minutes 50 seconds West 1660 feet more or less to the waters edge of the Rabbit River; thence Westerly and Southwesterly 129 feet more or less to a point on the West line of Lot 9 extended of said Greenfield Estates, bearing South 02 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds West from the Point of Beginning; thence North 02 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds East 1805 feet more or less along said line, to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 4842 GREEN RIDGE TRAIL, HAMILTON, MI 49419 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 29, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00900-1

(01-29)(02-19)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Trust Estate

Don E. Rynbrandt ("Decedent")

Date of Decedent's Birth: January 8, 1935

Name of Trust: Rynbrandt Living Trust dated January 21, 2000

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Decedent, Don E. Rynbrandt died December 10, 2025. There is no personal representative of Decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent, Decedent's estate, and/or Decedent's trust(s) will be forever barred unless presented to Trustee, Mary Lee Rynbrandt, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: January 22, 2026

Douglas J. Brackmann (P-40885)

WESSELING & BRACKMANN P.C.

6439 28th Avenue

Hudsonville, Michigan 49426

(616) 669-8185

Mary Lee Rynbrandt

3090143rd Avenue Dorr, Michigan 49323

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Trust

Allegan

Trust: Revocable Living Trust Agreement of Ravina Kruizenga, Number 1, u/a/d 12/11/09

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ravina Kruizenga , who lived at 948 Laketown Drive, Holland, MI 49423 , Michigan, died 12/24/2025

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee, Henry Vugteveen , within 4 months from the date of publication of this notice.

01/22/2026

Blaque W. Hough P-47697

300 South State St., Ste. 11

Zeeland, MI 49464 (616) 212-9336

Henry Vugteveen

1453 Cimarron Dr.

Holland, MI 49423 (616) 490-4318

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 26-66032-DE and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of David Alan Raven Date of Birth:*12-13-1962

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, David Alan Raven, died 12-14-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Curtis Seif and Ruth Seif, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

months after the date of publication of this notice.
1-21-2026
Curtis Seif and Ruth Seif
667 129th Ave
Shelbyville MI 49344
(616) 262-1731

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-66029-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Debra Adams Date of Birth:*07/11/1957
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Debra Adams, died 01/03/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gary Crisman, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
1/22/2026
Gary Crisman
3655 11th Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 491-3346

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Marcia Renae Vincent has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on February 17, 2026 at 9:00 am at 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010 or by Zoom (Meeting ID: 287 895 4786) before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: Marcia Renae Vincent to Marcia Renae Pumford
---

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO: 25-65806-DA
Estate of: Toni Thompson
Date of Birth: January 28, 1945
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Toni Thompson who lived at 2219 114th Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010 died December 15, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gary K. Thompson, named (or proposed) personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010 and the named/proposed personal representative within four months after the date of this publication of this notice.
Date: January 22, 2026
Name: Gary K. Thompson
Address: 1713 Golfview
City/State: Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: 269-779-5782
Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco & Thompson Law Offices, P.L.L.C.
Lori Thompson, P57022
685 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: (269) 983-0325

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
Case No. 25-71375-CK
HON. MATTHEW ANTKOVIAK
JOMAR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan
Limited liability company,
Plaintiff,
V
TIMOTHY COUNTERMAN, an individual,
Defendant.
Natashka W. Fris (P72565)
CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Defendant
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1821
natashka@cunninghamdalman.com
ORDER FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE
At a session of said Court, held in the Circuit Court in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, this 7 day of Jan., 2026.
PRESENT: Honorable Matthew Antkoviak, Circuit Court Judge.
THIS MATTER involving a claim for monetary damages resulting from damage to the real property located at 4684 Oak Street, Hamilton, Michigan, 49419, caused by Timothy Counterman, having come before the court by Motion of Plaintiff, the Court being advised in the premises, and the Court finds that service of process upon the Defendant cannot be reasonably made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. Defendants must answer the Complaint filed in this Court within 28 days of the date of FINAL publication of this notice. Failure to answer may result in a default judgment against Defendants or other negative action.
IT IS ORDERED THAT ALTERNATE SERVICE may be made on Defendant by first-class mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the Defendant, but shall also be done by tacking said summons and complaint to the door of the last known address of Defendant and via publication pursuant to MCR 2.106(D).
Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Honorable Matthew Antkoviak, Circuit Court Judge
THIS DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:
Natashka W. Fris (P72565)
CUNNINGHAM DALMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
321 Settlers Rd.
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
natashka@cunninghamdalman.com
ATTEST A TRUE COPY
Brenda L Thomas
Deputy Clerk
1-29 2-12

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Derek Gentry, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Asset Services LLC
Date of Mortgage: June 5, 2025
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 2, 2025
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $293,968.98
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ganges, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the West 1/4 post of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan; thence North on the West Section line, 308.02 feet; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East, 1062.00 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence North parallel with the West Section line, 347.00 feet to the North line of the South 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4; thence South 88 degrees 52 minutes 56 seconds East on same, 1243.67 feet; thence 110.00 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 68,564.94 feet and a chord that bears South 00 degrees 02 minutes 18 seconds - East, 110.00 feet; thence South 88 degrees 52 minutes 56 seconds East, 40.01 feet to the Westerly line of 1-196 highway; thence along said Westerly line 235.80 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 68,604.94 feet and a chord that bears South 00 degrees 06 minutes 24 seconds West, 235.80 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds West, 1283.29 feet to the place of beginning.
Together with an easement for ingress-egress and public utilities over a 66 foot wide strip of land with turnaround described as beginning on the West line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West at a point 449.46 feet North of the West 1/4 post of the Section; thence North on the Section line, 67.39 feet; thence South 78 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds East 188.00 feet; thence South 45 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 193.50 feet; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds East, 954.04 feet; thence 242.09 feet around a curve to the right with a radius of 50
feet and a chord that bears South 01 degree 03 minutes 53 seconds West, 66.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 07 seconds West 980.66 feet; thence North 45 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, 200.36 feet; thence North 78 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West, 154.61 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 6953 Conklin Ln, Fennville, MI 49408-9795
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 29, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1583019
(01-29)(02-19)

MUNICIPIO DE CLYDE

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA DEL PRESUPUESTO

El municipio de Clyde Comité
llevará a cabo una junta pública sobre
el presupuesto municipal propuesto para el
año fiscal 2026-2027 en el
Clyde Municipio Hall, 1679 56th Street, Fennville, MI el 11 de febrero de 2026, comenzando
a las 6:30pm

El impuesto a la propiedad tasa de amillaramiento propuestas que se exijan para apoyar el proyecto de presupuesto será un tema de esta junta. Una copia del presupuesto se encuentra disponible para la inspección pública de la Secretaria municipio, Pam Onken, (616) 566-1667.

Este aviso se publica de conformidad con PA 267 de 1976, según enmendada (Ley de Reunión Abierta), MCLA 41.72a (2)
(3) y el Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

El municipio de Clyde comité ofrecerá las ayudas necesarias razonables y servicios auxiliares, como los firmantes de personas con discapacidad auditiva y cassettes de los materiales impresos que se examinarán en la junta, y las personas con discapacidad para la junta, un aviso de 7 días para el Comite de Clyde municipio.
Las personas con discapacidad que necesitan ayudas auxiliares o servicio deben de comunicarse con la Secretaria de Clyde Township, Pam Onken, P.O. Caja 671, Fennville, MI 49408, (616) 566-1667.

Pam Onken,
Clyde Municipio Secretaria

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALLEGAN COUNTY
PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR OPERATING AND/OR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE

All citizens are advised that Allegan County has prepared an application for State of Michigan financial assistance for fiscal year 2027, as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended.

Allegan County is requesting a total of $4,748,926 through the following funding program(s):

Funding Source(s)	Operating Amount	Capital Amount Per Project	Total Amount
State Formula Operating	$1,173,899	N/A	$1,173,899
Federal Sec 5311 Operating	$636,827	N/A	$ 636,827
Section 5311 Job Access Reverse Commute	$102,300	N/A	$ 102,300
Section 5310 New Freedom Program	N/A	Mobility Management	$ 71,500
Surface Transportation Program (STP)	N/A	Equipment & Facility	$ 267,200
SEC 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities	N/A	Replacement Buses(13) Vans(1)	$2,497,200
			$4,748,926

Allegan County ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint please contact us at the address given below.

The proposed application is on file at Allegan County Transportation, 750 Airway Drive, Allegan, MI 49010, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (January 29, 2026 – February 28, 2026), between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or on the web at www.allegancounty.org/transportation . Click "Policies & Applications".

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by February 28, 2026. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time, and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to Allegan County Transportation, 750 Airway Drive, Allegan, MI 49010 or by email to Transportation@allegancounty.org

TOWNSHIP OF CLYDE

NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Clyde Township Board
will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at the
Clyde Township Hall,
1679 56th Street, Fennville, MI
on February 11, 2026 beginning at 6:30 pm

*The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.
A copy of the budget is available for public inspection from the Township Clerk, Pam Onken, (616) 566-1667.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meeting Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Clyde Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Clyde Township Board.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or service should contact the Clyde Township Clerk, Pam Onken,
P.O. Box 671, Fennville, MI 49408,
(616) 566-1667.

Pam Onken,
Clyde Township Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

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Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-866-438-1859

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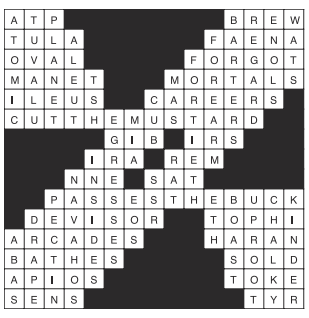
"Dozer & Loader Work"
• sand • crushed concrete
• gravel • slag & top soil
(616) 836-3970

Lawsuit

OVARIAN CANCER AFTER use of TALC products such as BABY POWDER or SHOWER TO SHOWER, you may be entitled to compensation. Contact Charles Johnson 800/535-5727

Gutters

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-866-495-1709 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus $250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.



Vacations

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE $250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-866-681-0336

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, PATIOS SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, FLOORS.
Free estimates
Call 269-377-3950

8	4	2	6	9	7	1	5	3
7	3	9	5	8	1	2	6	4
6	1	5	2	4	3	8	7	9
4	8	7	9	1	6	5	3	2
9	2	1	7	3	5	6	4	8
5	6	3	8	2	4	7	9	1
3	7	4	1	6	8	9	2	5
1	9	6	3	5	2	4	8	7
2	5	8	4	7	9	3	1	6

CONSTRUCTION
CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
Dan Barber, licensed builder.
673-7048 evenings

GET THE MOST FOR YOUR HOME BY CONSULTING...
The Home Doctor
BEFORE YOU SELL!
It's medicine for your home!
ALREADY BOUGHT A HOME? It's time to customize it to your taste. Consult below!

INSURANCE
Hartman - Ellis
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Insurance
Auto • Fire • Life
Home • Business
155 Brady St., Allegan
673-4256

SEWER / SEPTIC
WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK
& DEVELOPMENT CO.
• Septic Systems Manufactured Installed and Cleaned
• Site Preps
800-391-0203
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

REDI-MIX CONCRETE
Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

In John 14, we read about the day when Andrew and another man first saw Jesus as he was walking along the beach. John the Baptist pointed out the Lord, saying that he was the true Messiah, and the men hurried to hear what he had to say. It is the Lord's question that registers in my mind. "What are you looking for?"

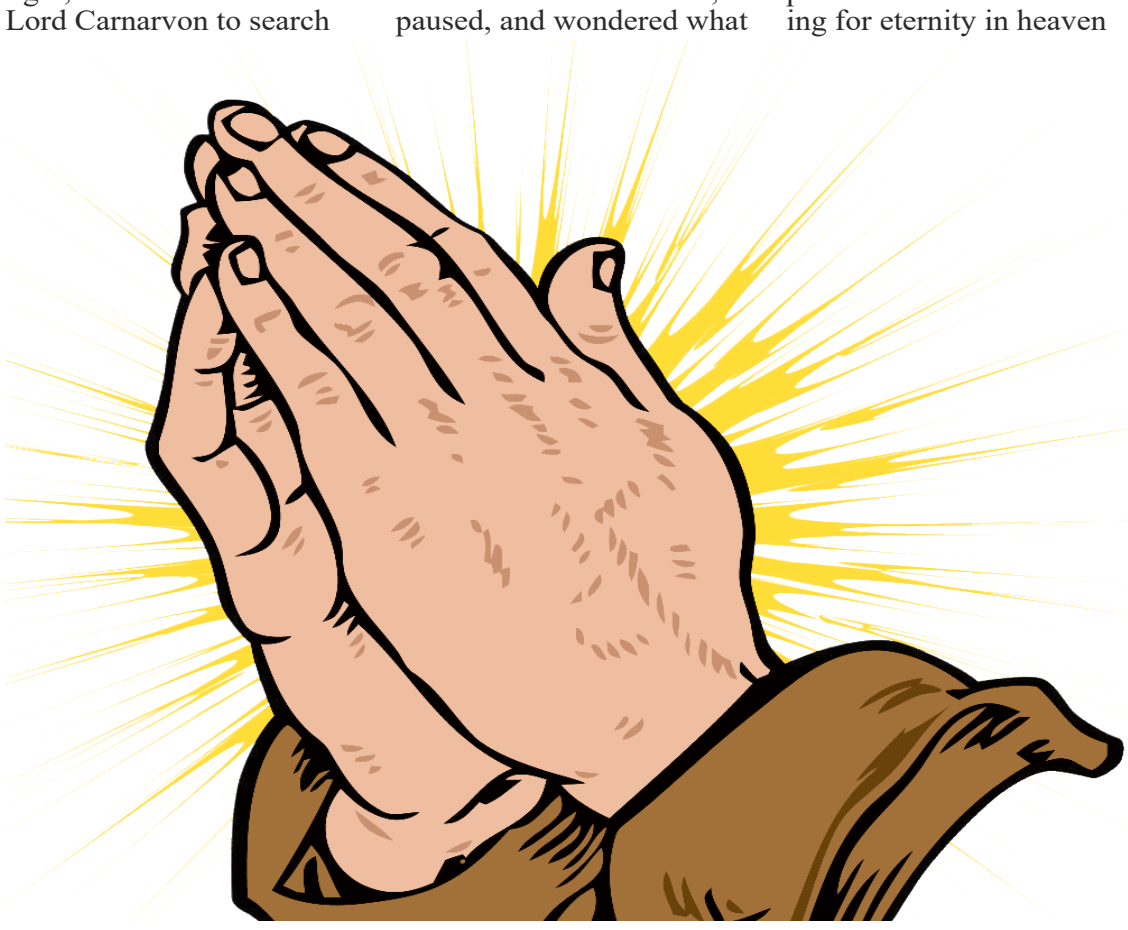
That is a question all of us have been asking since we were very young. When we came home from school, almost immediately we were asking about dinner, and if we could have a snack in the meantime. We looked on the calendar for holidays and special events, or even weekends where we didn't have to go to school.

A few years later, when I wanted to be waved over to the Cool Kids Table in the school cafeteria, it never happened, but neither did I lose hope it might happen. I looked forward to getting a driver's license, my first after school job. I looked forward to fishing and going to baseball games with my father.

The list goes on. But you and I are always looking for something that is just out of sight. That's what sent Daniel Boone into the wilderness, or Edison to develop the electric light, or Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon to search for years for the tomb of King Tut.

Now that I am a card-carrying memory of The Olds, I am still looking. Why, just a few hours ago I walked into the kitchen, paused, and wondered what I came in to find. I know I must have been looking for something, but I couldn't remember what it was.

Christians have always been forward looking people. It is far more than looking for eternity in heaven sometime in the future. Our search is more immediate, such as looking forward to getting up and finding what this day is going to bring. Or, just as importantly, looking forward to what we are going to bring to the day.



The one danger is that we can become so pre-occupied with looking forward that we neglect embracing the moment. Years ago, when an acquaintance and his son began restoring an old Plymouth, all the boy could talk about was how much fun he was going to have driving the car. Very gently, his father pointed out he was probably having as much fun, if not more, restoring the car than he would ever have driving it.

A good lesson for all of us

We are blessed because we can look forward to what might happen next, but also have the God-given capacity to live in the moment.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware Where the Builders Go! We deliver 730 River St., Allegan 269.673.4470 www.legglumber.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

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